



Christmas cheer: Rachel Anderson, a forest officer, checking trees at the Alice Holt plantation, near Farnham, Surrey, in preparation for the rush of buyers expected this weekend

## Inflation rate falls to 9.7% as peak is passed

By ANATOLE KALETSKY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A FALL in the inflation rate to 9.7 per cent, the biggest drop for more than four years, provided some cheer for the government after a week of gloomy economic news.

Although the big drop from 10.9 per cent in October was largely due to one-time changes in mortgage rates, there were also significant improvements in underlying inflation. These suggested that government had a good chance of meeting its forecast of 5.5 per cent inflation by late next year.

However, the relief was tempered by concern in both the City and Westminster that the Chancellor might miss an ideal opportunity to cut interest rates and mitigate the deepening recession. Norman Lamont made an unusually outspoken commitment on

Wednesday to base British monetary policy primarily on sterling's performance in the European exchange-rate mechanism. The foreign exchange markets shrugged off the good inflation figures and sterling remained unchanged at DM2.8790, well below the ERM central parity of DM2.95, which Mr Lamont appears to have set as a trigger for any interest rate cut.

Dealers said that sterling might weaken further if the Bundesbank increased its interest rates, as widely expected, within the next month or so. The Chancellor's opportunity to cut British rates might therefore disappear early in the new year, regardless of further improvements in Britain's inflation performance.

The Chancellor's policy dilemma was further highlighted yesterday by very weak industrial production figures, which showed the economic decline continuing to gain momentum. Industrial production fell by 2.5 per cent in the three months to October, the biggest three-month drop for 10 years.

Dr Ann Robinson, of the Institute of Directors, said that with the economy weakening, businesses were justified in their demands for lower interest rates. "However, because the government is now in the straitjacket of its ERM commitment, we can see no hope of lower interest rates in the near future without causing serious instability in the currency market."

While there was widespread gloom yesterday about the prospects for interest rates and recession, private economists almost unanimously endorsed

the Treasury's view that inflation had finally peaked. Price increases excluding mortgage payments and poll tax, considered a more reliable gauge of underlying inflationary pressure than the headline figure, fell to 8.0 per cent in November from 8.4 per cent. That was largely due to lower petrol prices, but other components also showed improvement. Food prices rose by 6.9 per cent in the year to November and various services by between 7.7 and 9.1 per cent.

Britain's inflation remains well above the European average of 6.4 per cent. John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said the rate was distressingly high and Neil Kinnock said Britain was suffering from stagflation. The Liberal Democrats Treasury spokesman, Alan Beith, said that much of the fall was cosmetic with prices for basic items still increasing.

Mr Kinnock, speaking in his Islwyn constituency, welcomed the fall, saying: "The long hard squeeze with the highest interest rates in any major economy was bound to bring a reduction eventually." When the Conservatives came to power, inflation was at the European Community average. Now it was well over double the 4.4 per cent rate of the other ERM countries.

Criticising the devastation caused by the "recession government", he promised that Labour would be a revival government, promoting forward-looking industrial and regional policies based on the development of skills and science.



Cheney: sanctions doubt

## Bush may abandon Iraq talks

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush was yesterday threatening to retract his offer of direct talks with Baghdad unless President Saddam dropped his insistence that he could not meet James Baker, the US Secretary of State, until January 12, just three days before the UN has authorised the use of force.

"The President is prepared to have no meetings rather than see a lot of shoving around. He believes Saddam needs to get the point that it's Saddam who's in trouble and if we have no meetings, so be it," said Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana.

Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, told the House armed services committee that he saw little probability of sanctions working and argued the case for military action in the near future if Iraq did not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15.

● A New York Times poll shows 45 per cent in favour of a war, with 48 per cent saying sanctions should be given more time. In Britain 71 per cent of people favour war if sanctions fail, according to Harris Poll for the BBC2 Assignment programme.

Case for force, page 7  
Clifford Langley, page 12

## We must march together, Major tells EC leaders

From ROBIN OAKLEY IN ROME

JOHN Major yesterday signalled a new era of British co-operation in Europe. Clearly determined to avoid a two-tier Community and to end British isolation, he told EC leaders that they must go forward together. No one wanted confrontation. "We are wholeheartedly engaged with you all in the great enterprise of building, shaping and developing Europe."

But privately, he urged other Conservative leaders, including Helmut Kohl of Germany and Giulio Andreotti of Italy, not to rush the pace of integration when he had an election looming. He effectively appealed for time to square party and public opinion before being expected to back up his more moderate tone on Europe with practical policy changes.

His formal message was that a change of prime minister did not mean any change of heart on a single currency or a federal Europe. Nor could he be expected to put his name to anything which would not be agreed by the British parliament. In interviews he said: "I was a member of Mrs Thatcher's cabinet for some time: the policies then remain cabinet policies."

But he added that he was of a generation that held a "very positive" view of the Community. He would be enthusiastic in building and shaping Europe, seeking as he did so liberalism in economics, democracy in politics, evolution on constitutional questions and co-operation on foreign policy. This, he believed, was compatible with what others in Europe sought.

His tone was a marked departure from the confrontational rhetoric of Mrs Thatcher and other leaders took it

## Fog brings renewed misery on roads

By GEOFF KING

THICK fog caused problems on roads in many parts of the country last night as the snow and high winds gave way to more settled weather. The outlook for the weekend was remaining cold, with overnight frost and fog likely to affect all regions.

Visibility was reduced to 50 yards on parts of the M25 west of London and in central Birmingham. In Dorset, a pedestrian died after being hit by a car in freezing fog on the A352 near East Stour. Speed restrictions were in force on a number of motorways and the AA reported heavy traffic. The fog was expected to spread overnight.

Parts of the East Midlands, meanwhile, were still without electricity yesterday even though 2,500 staff had been drafted in from other areas to cope with the aftermath of the snow falls. Many overhead power lines were still being repaired.

The more settled weather brought no change to the betting odds on there being a white Christmas. Ladbrokes was still offering 8-1 for the possibility of a snowflake falling on the roof of the London Weather Centre at midday.

Blizzard aftermath, page 6  
Forecast, page 26

## TODAY

Just a wee bit miffed



Billy Connolly gets worked up by the Hollywood money obsession and has a word or two for those who accuse him of selling out

SATURDAY REVIEW

Trade in that sock option

Choosing a gift that matches the person need not be harder than buying yet another pair of socks

WEEKEND LIVING

The Bligh syndrome

The two Oxford University captains (of rugby and rowing), who went through mutiny to victory, talk about their experiences

SPORT

Money and the young

What our younger readers spend and how they can save

PRIME TIME

NEXT WEEK

Hangers flog dead horse

"Whence comes the extraordinary and apparently implacable desire among members of Parliament (mostly Conservative) to have people strangled...?"

Bernard Levin on capital punishment, on Monday

A very good school - official

The head of a Dorset school rated one of the best by HM inspectors talks to David Tyler about raising standards

EDUCATION, MONDAY

## INSIDE

### Levitt chief granted bail

Roger Levitt, the founder and chairman of the Levitt Group financial services concern, was remanded on bail of £500,000 at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday.

He was charged on two counts of theft totalling £665,000. His court appearance coincided with his being declared a bankrupt. His assets were put in the control of the official receiver. Page 3

### Farm pact near

The European Community and the United States are close to resolving a series of damaging farm disputes in a "peace package". The move towards an accord is the most positive step since the row over farm subsidies brought Gatt talks to a standstill. Page 26

### Bush setback

President Bush's choice for chief of the Republican Party, William Bennett, has become the latest victim of White House infighting. Page 11

### Europe's tunnel

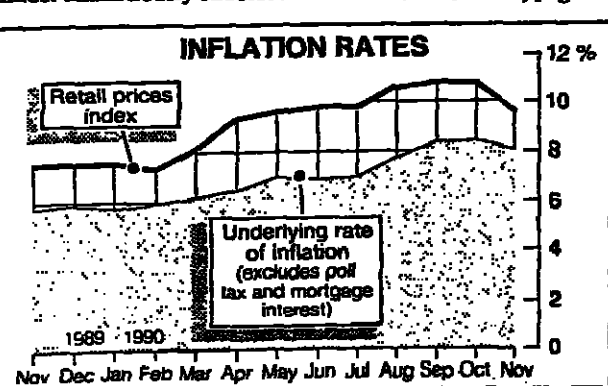
The Channel tunnel operator, Eurotunnel, appears to be controlled by continental investors after its £566 million rights issue. Page 34

### Test for Bonds

The unbeaten home record of Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, faces a stern examination when Middlesbrough visit. Page 29

## INDEX

Arts	23
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Business	34-37
Court & social	14
Crosswords	15-26
Leading articles	13-14
Letters	13-14
Obituaries	27-33
Sport	24-25
TV & radio	26
Weather	26
Weekend money	40-44



Production falls, page 35

## Submarine snagging enquiry

By KERRY GILL

THE US navy has launched an enquiry into a claim yesterday that one of its nuclear-powered submarines snagged the nets of a fishing boat off the Mull of Kintyre.

In spite of a statement by Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, that it was unlikely that the snagging was caused by the submarine, the Americans said that they were keeping an open mind while the investigation took place. No one was injured in the

incident which comes three weeks after the Antares fishing boat was sunk by the Royal Navy submarine Trenchant in the Firth of Forth with the loss of four lives.

The four crew of the Green Eagle, from Kilkeel, Co Down, saw the American submarine sailing astern on the surface minutes after they lost most of their gear. The snagging brought calls for an immediate extension of the code of conduct agreed between the

Royal Navy and fishing vessels in the Firth of Clyde. The code, which comes into force on Monday, will require the navy to forewarn fishermen of the presence of submarines beneath the surface.

Lieutenant Steve Lowry, of the US navy, said that extensive checks would be made on the submarine by its commander. The results would be known next week.

Report, photograph, page 2

## Hero of a puppet regime crosses to the West

From ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

EAST Germany may have disappeared from the map as a mere footnote in world history but the true symbol of the short-lived country lives on, oblivious to unification and immune to the wave of Western takeovers.

State television's most popular children's puppet series Sandmannchen - the Sandman - has been rescued from the scrapheap by popular demand as eastern Germany's Channel One ceases broadcasting today. The puppet, which has appeared every evening for 31 years to scatter sand into the eyes of the nation's wakeful tinies, has outlived Walter Ulbricht, under whose rule he started, Erich Honecker, and finally the East German state itself.

When it became clear that the main channel was to close, leaving

only a regional programme, hundreds of thousands of children launched a "save the Sandman" campaign. Those petitioners too small to wield a pen for their rights applied handprints to the appeal to make clear their resistance to the sacrificing of the Sandman.

The programme, which has the highest viewing figures in the east, will now be shown on the federal ARD network and be repeated in the eastern German regions. "He is simply a part of GDR identity for parents and children here, one of the things they remember about life pre-unity with pleasure, not resentment," said studio director Eberhard Neumann. "No one would dare do away with him. Even the new director-general has a Sandman on his desk."

The show has succeeded where much of the country's media failed in making the transition from socialism to

capitalism without looking outdated, and is now successfully gathering young viewers in the west.

Herr Albrecht described the Sandman as having "the benefit of a clean record". Not even the puppet escaped the odd ideological respray, however. His curiosity about the adult world and fictitious visits to different parts of the GDR were supposed to establish him as the "new type of man", in keeping with the rules of socialist realism.

In one episode, he paid a visit to the amiable soldiers of the Volksarmee and rode in a tank with them in the service of peace. On National Day, he obediently waved an East German flag, and went to the moon - with the cosmonauts, of course. A western Sandman, launched as an ideological corrective in the 1950s, failed miserably to match the eastern version and was scrapped.



On his bike: Sandman is out to conquer the west

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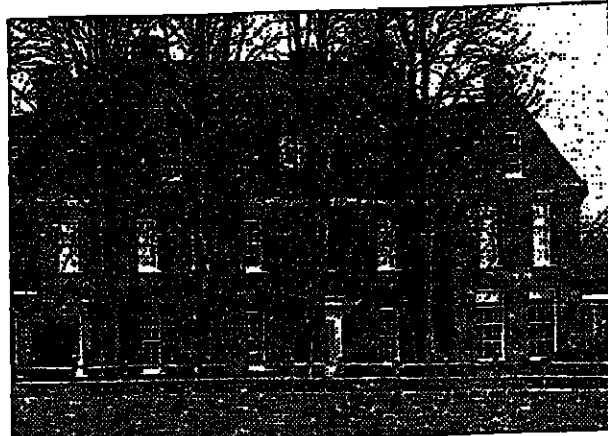
# Baker gets Howe's old country home in twist to moving saga

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN Major yesterday unveiled the latest move in the grace-and-favour homes saga by handing over Dorneywood, the Queen Anne mansion in Buckinghamshire, to his home secretary, Kenneth Baker.

Until last month the house and 214 acres had been the much-publicised country residence of Sir Geoffrey Howe. Previous tenants were Nigel Lawson, when Chancellor, and Lord Whitelaw, during his years as home secretary, deputy prime minister and leader of the Lords.

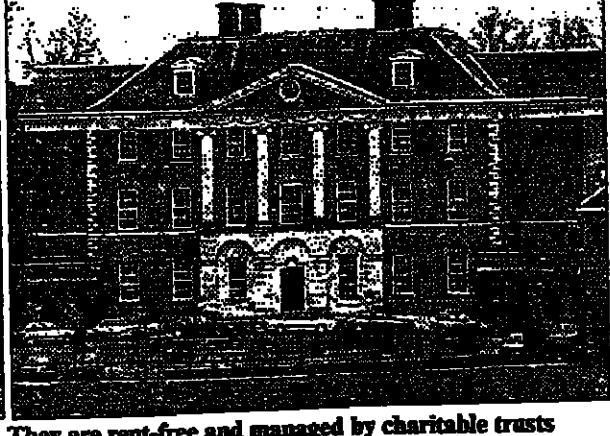
The allocation of official residences has contributed to the departure of Sir Geoffrey Howe and so, in turn, to the demise of Margaret Thatcher. In his reshuffle Mr Major has sought to settle once and for all the living accommodation of his Cabinet.



Country comforts: from left, Dorneywood, Chequers and Chevening, grace-and-favour mansions for cabinet use. They are rent-free and managed by charitable trusts



Chevening, the foreign secretary's official country residence in Kent. With the title of deputy prime minister, Mrs Thatcher eventually gave Sir Geoffrey Dorneywood.



However, what was seen as an unseemly wrangle over country houses diminished Sir Geoffrey's standing with the Tory backbenchers and probably cost him any hope of succeeding Mrs Thatcher. Since his resignation last month he has had to vacate both Dorneywood and his Pimlico apartments, which have reverted to the defence ministry. The tenancies of the official residences within the prime minister's gift now read: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary (Carlton House Terrace and Chevening); Norman Lamont, the Chancellor (11 Downing Street); Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor (apartments in the House of Lords); Kenneth Baker, home secretary (Dorneywood); and Lord Waddington (62 South Eaton Place). The rent-free official residences are managed by charitable trusts which pay most of the running costs. Tenants, however, must pay personal food and drink bills.

Dorneywood, which has nine bedrooms, five bathrooms, Whistler paintings and Regency furniture, was bequeathed to the nation during the second world war by Lord Courtauld-Thomson the industrialist.

Even yesterday's Downing Street announcement did not pass off without incident as Westminster pundits immediately queried the fate of Lord Waddington, who might have been expected to follow the former leader of the Lords, Lord Whitelaw, into Dorneywood.

However, he said: "I look upon it as a fair share out. It would have been grossly unfair if I had had the town house [South Eaton Place], which is usually used by the home secretary, and Dorneywood as well."

Diary, page 12

## US navy launches enquiry after net snagging incident

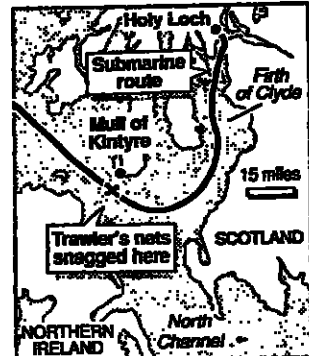
By KERRY GILL

THE US navy ordered an investigation yesterday into a claim that one of its nuclear-powered submarines snagged the nets of a fishing boat off the Mull of Kintyre, only three weeks after a Royal Navy submarine sank the Antares with the loss of its four crew in the Firth of Clyde.

The incident happened on Thursday night when the fishing boat Green Eagle felt a shudder five miles southwest of Kintyre. After hauling in what remained of their smashed fishing gear, the four-man crew saw the 8,000-ton submarine sailing astern.

The US navy has confirmed that one of its submarines was in the area. "The commanding officer has no on-board indication that he ran into anything. We have launched an investigation and the results should be known next week. We are keeping an open mind."

A US navy spokesman said that the submarine, on its way to the Atlantic, had passed 2,000 yards abeam and 4,000 yards astern of a fishing vessel.



Preston Scott, aged 40, of Killybegs, Co Down, the Green Eagle's skipper, said that the submarine passed through an area where 14 boats were fishing. "There should be no submarine anywhere near them," he said. "It was a big area. He could go round them but to come in through them is suicide." Mr Scott said that there was a sudden shudder and the net began rising very quickly. He and his crew hauled in what was left of the fishing gear and then they spotted the submarine about a quarter of a mile astern.

The Green Eagle, which was fishing for hake, lost more than £2,000 worth of gear including an electronic "pinger" supposed to send signals audible to a submarine. "Anything could have happened if it had hit the gear right. It could have pulled us down under. I called him on channel 16 and he just sped away to the northwest, towards the Atlantic."

The incident brought demands for the code of conduct governing submarines in the Firth of Clyde, which comes into force on Monday, to be extended around the British and Irish coastlines.

The defence ministry confirmed that the submarine had remained on the surface after leaving its base earlier on Thursday. "The commander was on the bridge at all times and he was not aware of striking anything at all," the ministry said. "They were a long way from the fishing vessel and it is extremely unlikely that they would have had anything to do with it at all. No other submarines were in the area."

Mr Scott said that there was little the fishermen could do about the problem of submarines. "We can do nothing to prevent it. Our nets are giving signals back to our boats and if they are giving signals back to us they should be giving signals out in every direction. If the submarine's men are any good with the equipment they should be able to detect our nets and boat ahead of them."

Patrick Stewart, secretary of the Clyde Fishermen's Association, said that the submarine should return to port for an investigation into the incident. "There seems to be a particular problem with American submarines on the surface. Fishermen have said at least two vessels have been in contact with American submarines recently. Even if this latest incident had occurred in the Firth of Clyde the new code of conduct would not have applied as both vessels are on the surface and the normal rules of the roads apply."



Home and dry: crew of the Green Eagle repairing their nets which were apparently snagged by a US navy submarine off the Firth of Clyde

## Treason penalty faces end

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

THE Commons is expected to approve on Monday a Labour proposal to abolish the death penalty for treason and piracy despite a plea by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, not to tamper with the treason laws during the debate on capital punishment.

MPs are also expected to vote decisively against the restoration of capital punishment for any category of murder. Unless Tory MPs obey Mr Baker's appeal not to change the treason and piracy legislation, a combination of Labour MPs and anti-hanging Tories in a free vote will ensure the removal from the statute book of the death penalty.

The government would then have to decide whether to try to reverse the decision later in the session, possibly in the Lords. Approval of the end of the death penalty for any offence will also confuse debate on the Armed Forces Bill, which reinforces the availability to the courts of the sanction for traitors.

The Under Sheriff of Greater London, Alastair Black, enters the debate on the death penalty today, saying that the details of execution should be considered. In a letter to *The Times*, he says that "hanging is barbarous", adding that there is no experienced hangman available to calculate the ratio of weight to length of drop.

In her first interview since her resignation, Mrs Thatcher says: "I'm still going uphill and it has been uphill as you've seen for the last two weeks. But if you believe passionately and do something that is really worthwhile,

Letters, page 13

## Heseltine consults councils

By PETER DAVENPORT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, disclosed yesterday that he is to undertake a series of consultations with leading city councils as part of his review of the poll tax.

He held talks with councillors in Leeds and Manchester yesterday and said that he had been invited to visit Liverpool, whose Labour-controlled authority has been one of the most vehemently opposed to the government.

Mr Heseltine admitted that he found himself in sympathy with many of the views raised by leaders of the Labour group

on Leeds city council. "In the interests of society and the community at large we must recognise we have got far more to gain together than we have apart."

He said that he intended to meet as many city councils as possible during the review and that others would be seen by officials of his department.

"I intend to get out into the country in order to visit as many people as I can in their own towns, cities or rural areas because there is a flavour which comes much more vividly from being there than sitting on the 16th floor of

Marsham Street [DoE headquarters] receiving delegations and looking up files," he said.

Mr Heseltine was in Leeds yesterday as part of his first foray back into the inner cities since his return to the environment department. He was shown work being undertaken by the government-created development corporation for the city.

He repeated that there should be no "quick fix" to the problems of the poll tax and said that any changes in legislation required would take a minimum of two years to pass through parliament.

"I have given as clear a flavour as I can about the nature of the review which I think is likely to lead to a series of building blocks which will add up to a coherent policy," he said.

He refused to be drawn on whether there was any prospect of local authorities being given additional financial relief to cope with the difficulties of the poll tax before the review was completed.

Mr Heseltine said that he had been pleased with the response from the minor opposition parties in Parliament to his offer of talks about the review, although said at the attitude of Labour, which he described as one of "dismissive hostility". He said he hoped that the Labour leadership would come to a "more responsible view".

He said that a significant number of local authority Labour leaders had taken a more constructive approach than the parliamentary party.

## Vauxhall warning on pay rises

The head of Vauxhall last night said the motor industry could not afford to lead next year's pay round with a further run of double-figure percentage rises ahead of inflation.

Paul Tosch, Vauxhall's managing director, said inflation had increased the burden on car manufacturers over the past four years, doubling wage rises over original estimates in the past year alone. Vauxhall is to pay its 9,000 manual workers in Luton and Merseyside 12.4 per cent in the second stage of a two-year deal.

Christmas outing  
Almost one third of sentenced prisoners in Northern Ireland are to be freed next week for seven days of Christmas leave. The move means that 434 of the 1,440 sentenced prisoners will be released. Of these, 144 are serving life sentences. Some are terrorist killers but those classified as "top risk" are excluded. The scheme has operated for several years and no prisoner has yet failed to return on time.

Shorter sentence  
An IRA man convicted of the attempted murder of two UDR soldiers in Northern Ireland in a bomb explosion was spared a life sentence yesterday. After the blast Vivian McDonald, of Ballygawley, Co Tyrone, was shot in the face by a farmer who found him in his yard wearing a mask. McDonald was jailed for 18 years after the Belfast court was told he now had difficulty speaking and eating.

Aircraft scare  
Tim Lancaster, the airline pilot who was almost sucked out of the cockpit of his jet in June, had to halt a flight to Paris yesterday after a service door on his BAC 1-11 aircraft appeared to develop a pressurisation fault. Captain Lancaster returned to Birmingham airport 15 minutes after having taken off with 37 passengers. British Airways said that the aircraft was on its first flight after an overhaul.

Jury stays out  
The jury at the Central Criminal Court trying Rodney Whitcho, a former detective of Horsham, Essex, on charges including blackmail and contaminating baby food, spent its second night in a hotel last night after failing to reach a verdict. It is due to resume its deliberations this morning.

Boxer to  
Tony Sison, the boxer, was taken through an emergency operation to remove a tumour from his brain after he collapsed after his fight with American Marvin Hagler.

Advert  
The advertisement for the new book "The Art of the Deal" by Donald Trump is being placed in the Times.

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## Enquiry drain on police time

By WILLIAM CASH AND STEWART TENDLER

ALMOST half of the police forces in England and Wales are either taking part in investigations into other forces or are themselves under investigation, according to figures released yesterday.

A survey of 30 of the 43 forces in England and Wales disclosed that 14 investigations are being carried out. They range from small enquiries to large teams of officers working on cases such as the West Midlands serious crime squad allegations, the Birmingham six appeal, and the Hillsborough disaster.

Complaints against 10 forces are being investigated. West Midlands police is the subject of three enquiries and two are being carried out into the Metropolitan police.

Ten forces are carrying out enquiries and several are working on more than one case. West Yorkshire police are providing staff for a Greater Manchester case, the investigation into the West Midlands serious crime

squad, and a Humber investigation, and the force is about to send a team to Scotland Yard to check allegations against Wyn Jones, one of the assistant commissioners. This year the Yorkshire force has committed at least 49 staff to these cases.

Several of the investigations date back two or three years, including the enquiry into the demonstrations outside the News International plant at Wapping, which was begun by Northampton police in 1987. The Devon and Cornwall police operation on the Birmingham six case is also a long-running one.

Outside forces may be called in by chief constables to protect the probity of an investigation, or the Home Secretary can ask a force to intervene in a case. Advice on which forces have the manpower and resources to carry out investigations is often provided by the chief inspector of constabulary. No figures are available for

the cost of the investigations, which are often led by senior officers. In the case of Assistant Commissioner Wyn Jones, his seniority has led to Peter Nobles, the West Yorkshire chief constable, being appointed to lead the investigation.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers said: "The number of complaints is minute almost to the point of being invisible compared with internal investigations in each force. A lot of the enquiries being carried out are short term and small scale. The major public examples are the exception to the rule."

"We take the view it is important they are dealt with properly by the best qualified people; that is professional police officers. No one has presented coherent evidence that it is not effective. The cost of the enquiries are less important than making sure the enquiry is carried out properly."

## Forces' chiefs to give budget-cuts warning

By CRAIG SETON

THE chief constables of some of England's largest police forces are to give a warning that their budgets face drastic cuts because of the level of revenue support grant for local authorities being proposed by the government.

The forces in West and



Baker to receive joint approach from forces

South Yorkshire, West Midlands, Merseyside and Northumbria are expected to issue a joint statement next week detailing an approach to Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, which will give a warning of the potential impact of spending cuts.

West Midlands police fear that £14.7million would have to be cut from its proposed budget for next year on the basis of provisional standard spending assessments for local authorities announced in October by Chris Patten, then environment secretary.

West Yorkshire, which is leading the joint initiative, fears that it will have to make £8 million cuts, affecting new recruitment and new vehicles. The environment department said yesterday there was a period of consultation with local authorities before the provisional revenue support grant figures were fixed.



# Levitt Group head bailed on £660,000 theft allegations

By ANGELA MACKAY

ROGER Levitt, founder and chairman of the Levitt Group financial services business, was remanded yesterday on bail of £500,000 at Bow Street magistrates' court after being charged on two counts of theft totalling £665,000.

His court appearance coincided with his being declared a bankrupt and his personal assets being placed in the control of the official receiver. Mr Levitt made a personal bankruptcy application on Thursday, two days

after his company, valued at £150 million, was placed in the hands of liquidators.

Mr Levitt was remanded yesterday until February 8. He was charged late on Thursday with stealing £400,000 from a client between October 1987 and December 13, 1990, and £265,000 from another client between June 1986 and December 13, 1990.

During a short hearing, Sir David Hopkin, chief stipendiary magistrate, granted bail on condition that Mr Levitt should not communicate in any way with certain people who are to be interviewed by police; that he must live at his address in Highgate, north London; and that his passport must be held by his solicitors, Clifford Chance. Mr Levitt's father and a family friend stood bail of £250,000 each.

Separate investigations into Levitt Group are being conducted by police, the trade and industry department and the Serious Fraud Office.

KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the liquidators, confirmed that Levitt Group had about 5,000 investors, several thousand less than earlier estimates, and that some 200 of these clients were discretionary clients whose funds were handled directly by the Levitt Group on the clients' behalf.

Tim Hayward, one of the liquidators, said it looked unlikely that realisations of as-

sets (excluding clients' funds) would exceed £1 million.

Initially, Levitt Group appeared to have assets worth £10 million against a £30 million deficiency in the balance sheet. However, the latest statement implies that the deficiency will be closer to £40 million. The liquidators have dismissed 210 staff to cut costs.

Over the past year, Mr Levitt has made loans of just over £20 million to his company. Fimbra, the regulatory body, was satisfied that the group could continue trading if it was only Mr Levitt's funds that were supporting it.

When Fimbra asked Mr Levitt to capitalise the loans, he refused, and this triggered an administration order and later the liquidation.

At one stage, Mr Levitt, a businessman with many celebrity clients, had a personal fortune estimated at more than £80 million. He is believed to have submitted a list of his assets and liabilities to the High Court in his bankruptcy application.

Mr Levitt owns about 75 per cent of the company. Another 20 per cent is owned by Legal & General, Chase Manhattan, General Accident and Commercial Union. These institutions bought their 4.9 per cent stakes just three months ago from Mr Levitt personally.



Roger Levitt, chairman of the Levitt Group, leaving Bow Street magistrates' court

## Subsidies safe 'even after BR flotation'

By MICHAEL DYNES  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SUBSIDIES to sustain loss-making rural rail services will be maintained when British Rail is privatised, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, said yesterday.

A pledge to privatise the railways will be made in the Conservative election manifesto and, although a date has yet to be set for the flotation, "procedures towards it would start in the next parliament", Mr Rifkind said.

Dismissing recent speculation about the possibility of using public funds to help finance the proposed Channel tunnel high speed rail link, Mr Rifkind said the government was prohibited from supporting the project with subsidies.

The 68-mile link between Folkestone and London will be financed from British Rail's resources, and by borrowing from the national loans fund. However, that does not rule out using government grants to help finance related improvements in Network SouthEast's commuter services, Mr Rifkind said.

Rejecting allegations of government bias against public transport in favour of road building, Mr Rifkind said: "There is no bias in favour of one particular kind of transport." During the next three years nearly £7 billion will be invested in British Rail and London Underground, while £5.6 billion will be invested in roads, he added.

## Deadlier than the male?

"Something ruinous and evil has happened between men and women in the last 25 years, something so ruinous and sore that it's hard to see how the damage can be repaired while we live..." So wrote Neil Lyndon in last week's Sunday Times.

It created a storm which has run all week. Tomorrow you can read about it, and hear the other side of the story.

"When the women I spoke to had picked themselves up off the floor and stopped laughing, they poured scorn on his thesis that their tongues are the Exocet missiles of the sex war..."

Kate Saunders in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

## Ski scene

Richard Binns charts the best places to stay and the best places to eat en route to the piste. Plus weekly snow and weather reports from the major Alpine resorts start tomorrow in The Sunday Times.

## Hospitals refuse to admit prisoner

By QUENTIN COWDREY  
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HOLDING a mentally disordered man in prison because doctors at National Health Service secure psychiatric hospitals refused to admit him was a hopeless situation, a judge said yesterday.

Judge Nina Lowry said at the Central Criminal Court that Terence Goodhew, aged 33, who had admitted attacking 15 women with acid, should be held in a secure hospital. The court had, however, been unable to find an institution which would take him. "It is a hopeless situation, dreadful," she said.

The judge's comments came on the day that the Prisons Inspectorate criticised the health service for not doing more to reduce the numbers of mentally disordered people in jail. The inspectorate says that such inmates are often locked up for more than 20 hours a day in dirty, poorly lit cells, with not enough access to trained staff.

Julian Bevan, for the prosecution, said: "It seems an absolute tragedy that here is a man who is plainly ill and the state is quite unable to cope with the situation."

John Burrow, for the defence, said that one solution would be to seek an interim order for Goodhew to be assessed at St Andrew's hospital, Northampton, a private secure unit. He said that there was disagreement about what was wrong with Goodhew. One doctor had diagnosed him as being a psychopath, while another has concluded that he was suffering from a lesser impairment.

Judge Lowry remanded Goodhew in custody so that defence lawyers could make enquiries to see whether he could be assessed at St Andrew's.

The Special Hospitals Service Authority said yesterday that Goodhew had been refused admission because doctors felt that he would not respond to treatment and that he did not need to be detained in such secure conditions. Courts did not have the power to insist that secure hospitals accepted people.

The mental health charity Mind called on the health service to create special units for psychosocial offenders. "Many enter the prison system and receive no treatment or help and return to society still with severe problems," the charity said.

Prisoners urgently need to be provided with more work, education and leisure facilities, Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister of state, said on BBC Radio 4's Today programme yesterday.

A prisoner serving life for manslaughter has been found dead with his throat cut at Parkhurst jail on the Isle of Wight. He is believed to have committed suicide.

## Papoutsis 'felt he had been used'

By ROBIN YOUNG

A GREEK travel company director said that it felt as if the world had collapsed on him when he discovered that the woman he had had a holiday romance with was Sonia Sutcliffe, the wife of the Yorkshire Ripper.

In an interview with a newspaper reporter, George Papoutsis said that he was devastated when he learnt that Mrs Sutcliffe's husband, Peter Sutcliffe, was "a real sicko" who had murdered 13 women and tried to murder seven more, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

The reporter's record of the interview was read out in court on the fourth day of the libel action brought by Mrs Sutcliffe against the News of the World. Mrs Sutcliffe is seeking damages over an article alleging that she had an affair with Mr Papoutsis while on holiday in Greece.

Morven Kinlay, a former reporter for the News of the World, was shown a short-hand note of a four-hour interview she had with Mr Papoutsis at a London hotel in December 1988. A transcript of the notes quoted Mr Papoutsis as saying that he

had really liked Mrs Sutcliffe. He found her interesting, attractive and "the real intellectual type". He said that "with Sonia, the physical was holding hands", adding that she had power over him. "She was in control. She could manipulate me. I was really impressed with her."

Miss Kinlay told Geoffrey Shaw, for Mrs Sutcliffe, that although the words "a real sicko" did not appear in her notes, Mr Papoutsis spoke some colloquial English and had referred to Peter Sutcliffe as a "murdering bastard".

The transcript of Mr Papoutsis's interview continued: "I felt it was all sinister. I thought she was very mysterious and now I understand why. The whole experience has been really nightmareish."

Mr Papoutsis had seen photographs of Peter Sutcliffe while visiting Mrs Sutcliffe in Bradford. He had asked: "Who is this? He must be an Italian." She had said: "Yes, Leonardo da Vinci with a thin beard." He had asked: "Is this your first lover?" She had replied that he was her husband and that they were separated. He had remarked

that the man looked very much like him. The transcript quoted Mr Papoutsis as saying that Mrs Sutcliffe had then joked: "Yes you do look alike."

Mr Papoutsis said that he felt used. "Everything collapsed for me. I felt sick. It gave me the creeps. Maybe she was using me as a substitute for her husband."

Miss Kinlay, questioned about words that appeared in her article for the News of the World, agreed with Mr Shaw that the words "sizzling", "sexy" and "intimate" had been inserted by a sub-editor. She said: "That is just typical. The News of the World language."

She agreed that other words in the report were words that she had put in even though Mr Papoutsis had not said them, but she insisted that she had written the report in good faith and still believed it to be true. Miss Kinlay told the court that when she saw George Papoutsis she was immediately struck by his resemblance to Peter Sutcliffe. "He was just a dead ringer for him. I think he really did look like him."

Robert Warren, news editor

## UK 'behind in childcare'

BRITAIN lags behind other European countries in childcare, according to a report by the European Commission's childcare network.

The report found that the gap between childcare providers has widened over the past five years with Denmark spending almost seven times more per head than Britain on childcare services.

Christine Crawley, ERMMP for Birmingham East, who chairs the European Parliament's women's committee, said: "The whole Community has a long way to go, but the UK is at the starting block as far as most of the other member states are concerned. We hear a great deal about the need to tap women's skills and talents. Until there is a full network of publicly funded childcare facilities such statements are value-

less." The report found that growth in publicly funded provision has increased significantly in Denmark, Luxembourg, France and Portugal but has been much slower in the UK, Italy, Ireland and Greece. Parental leave is now available in eight countries, but not in Britain, and the UK remains the only country without universal maternity leave.

The report said that there should be targets for minimum levels of provision. There should also be regulation of the standards for the quality and quantity of child care on offer. It also said that one of the most important aspects of standards was employment rights for parents and recommended four basic rights which should be introduced in all member states: maternity leave, lasting 12-16

weeks after birth; paternity leave of at least two weeks; and parental leave of at least three months per parent initially, with an eventual objective of 6-9 months per parent. When fully implemented and taken along with maternity leave this would give parents 18 months of post-natal leave.

The report also recommends leave for family reasons, to allow parents to carry out essential parental duties, including the care of sick children. This should be at least five days each year per parent per child.

Peter Moss, of the childcare network, said that what was needed was a change in legislation. "There are certain legislative moves such as paternity leave and parental leave which signal very clearly that child care must be seen as a men's issue."

## £114,215 award against police

By BILL FROST

A FORMER airport worker who claimed detectives fabricated evidence to convict him of a robbery he did not commit won £114,215 damages in the High Court yesterday from the Metropolitan police.

Frank Nugent, aged 46, from Feltham, west London, had accused officers at Heathrow police station of concocting a false confession in which he admitted to taking part in a raid on the Trans Mediterranean Airways' depot in September 1985.

He was eventually cleared of involvement by an Old Bailey jury in October 1986, but not before he had spent a year in prison on remand.

The jury of eight men and four women took four hours to decide unanimously yesterday that Mr Nugent was falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted by police

after the £320,000 raid. After the hearing Mr Nugent said he was delighted that "justice has been done", but he added that the officers responsible for his ordeal should now themselves face charges.

Mr Nugent's solicitor called last night for a police inquiry into the conduct of the investigation.

Mr Nugent's two brothers were convicted of offences connected with the robbery in which British and foreign currency was stolen by raiders armed with pick axe handles. He argued that a confession in which he allegedly tried to do a deal with two detectives in return for immunity from prosecution was "100 per cent lies, all pure invention."

Last month Maurice Hope, the former world light-middle-weight boxing champion, accepted £50,000 agreed High Court damages from the

Metropolitan police in settlement of an action brought against the force for alleged false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Counsel for Mr Hope told the hearing that his client had been charged with smoking cannabis and eating packets of the drug while in his car. Scotland Yard's press bureau was told of his arrest and details appeared in newspapers.

However, the Crown offered no evidence when Mr Hope appeared at the Inner London Crown Court in June 1989. The judge said the boxer could leave without a stain on his character.

Damages totalling £233,054 were awarded against the Metropolitan police in the High Court last year, not including out-of-court settlements, compared with £104,336 in 1988.

## Boxer to sue over bruised-face advert

By JOHN YOUNG

TONY Sibson the boxer is to take legal action through his manager, Frank Warren, over an advertisement for Audi cars that depicts his bruised and battered appearance after his fight against the American Marvin Hagler.

The advertisement, which has now been withdrawn, states: "In our eyes it's better to avoid a hit than take one." It adds: "Tony Sibson: Leicester's own fighting gypsy, prided himself on his ability to 'take a punch'."

In a letter to The Times on Thursday, Mr Sibson said the advertisement had caused distress to his whole family. It had appeared without his permission and without previous warning.

"While a person in the public eye cannot escape publicity, it is dreadful that an ordinary individual (which is what I now am) should find an unpleasant photograph of himself displayed all over the national press," he said. "The advertisement implies that my only talent lay in an ability to endure punishment."



Tony Sibson as he appeared in the advertisement for Audi cars

British, European and Commonwealth titles with such a limited ability, far less be considered as a contender for the world championship." The content of the advertisement was unfair and denigrating.

The Advertising Standards Authority said yesterday that its code of practice did not require advertisers to seek permission of people who were in the

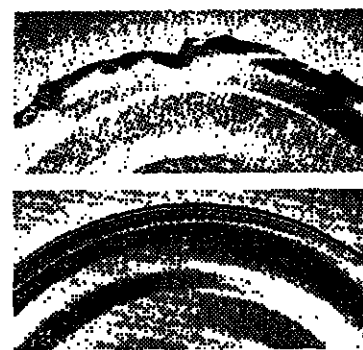
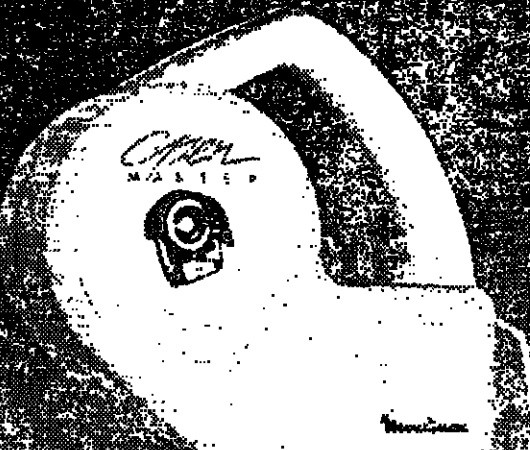
public eye, although they were advised to do so. So long as sports personalities were not shown to be endorsing a product or portrayed in an insensitive, unfair or distasteful way, the authority took a "fairly robust" view.

With legal action impending, it could not comment on Mr Sibson's case, but it would normally take action over advertisements which caused personal distress.

It had recently endorsed a complaint by Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, about an advertisement by Revlon for an anti-perspirant, which displayed his photograph and was captioned "For when you're really sweating." The authority described it as "highly distasteful" at a time when Mr Scargill was involved in an enquiry over missing union funds.

A spokesman for Audi's advertising agency, Bartle Bogle Hegarty, said that the advertisement had been legally checked before it was published. Public figures sometimes became indignant when they appeared in advertisements without their permission, but he claimed that it was not against the law.

It leaves behind a safe lid, smooth edges, and your fingers.



An ordinary can opener

leaves behind a jagged edge

that can very easily slice open

your fingers.

So, we at Moulinex have

introduced the ultimate in

safety can openers. It's called

the Open Master.

Unlike others, its unique

cutting wheel forms smooth,

rounded edges on the lid

and can, which renders them

totally harmless. Driven by a

powerful electric motor, it is

also totally effortless.

Perfect if you want to cut

out the hard work without

cutting yourself

Moulinex



# Lawyers query principle that judges' time is key to listing

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A JOINT offensive on the principle dominating the listing of cases in the courts — that judges must not be kept waiting — is to be launched by the Law Society and the Bar.

The rare joint initiative comes in response to comments by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, in October over the high incidence of aborted or "cracked" trials and the consequent waste of public money.

Lord Mackay told the pro-

fession that trials aborted by a last-minute change of plea in court from not guilty to guilty wasted public money. Although they could not be avoided altogether, lawyers could do much more to reduce cracked trials, Lord Mackay said. He urged lawyers to change their working practices and to give earlier consideration to the issues involved in a case.

However, the profession, while accepting its responsibility over aborted trials, is launching a counter-attack on the practices of court-listing officers.

Peter Cresswell, QC, the chairman of the Bar, said: "Sometimes there has been a change of counsel when a trial is aborted. But very often the problem has been caused by listing, and this is why we need to improve the listing system."

Walter Merricks, the assistant secretary-general of the Law Society, said: "Listing officers try to maximise the number of sitting hours of their judges, to the exclusion of every other consideration."

There was concern, Mr Merricks said, among lawyers over what they saw as the aggressive approach of some listing officers which put them under pressure to take a slot in the court timetable when they might not be ready, and when the defendant would not have counsel of his choice.

Further, he said, there was concern that defendants facing delays sitting around court waiting for their case to come on were under pressure to plead guilty.

"People are almost forced into a guilty plea if they turn up on a certain day and are then told the case won't come on until the afternoon, and then they are told it won't be heard that day, and they face the prospect of going away and having to come back on another day. They may think it's more than it's worth," he said.

The profession's two branches are to form a working party that will gather evidence from the circuits, local law societies and barristers' clerks on listing practices.

Clients and their wish for a particular lawyer should be put first, rather than judges' time, Mr Merricks said. "There is an old maxim among listing officers that says you are entitled to counsel of your choice but not necessarily your first choice," he said.

The system discriminated against people on legal aid, because privately funded defendants would always be given a fixed date and allowed to have counsel of their choice.

An aggressive approach by listing officers had been justified a few years ago, when delays before the crown courts were unacceptably long, Mr Merricks said.



Passing out the Princess of Wales, representing the Queen, meeting some of the 690 officer cadets at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst yesterday. Among the cadets were 20 from Gulf countries who, after being commissioned, will be going straight to their regiments there

## Breeding controls urged after antelope 'mad cow' death

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE British Veterinary Association urged the government yesterday to discourage farmers from breeding from the offspring of cattle affected by the "mad cow" disease after confirmation that an infant antelope born to an infected mother has died from the brain disorder at London Zoo.

The association, which was disappointed by the government's recent refusal to accept the recommendation of a Commons select committee on agriculture that it should act to deter such breeding, said that its members were now advising farmers not to breed from infected animals. "That is the sensible approach even though we accept that antelopes are not the same as cattle and that maternal transmission of the disease would not have any implications for human health."

The agriculture ministry said, however, that it had no plans to change its policy, and David Tyrrell, chairman of the scientific committee advising the government on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the cattle version of the disease, said that he saw no reason to amend his earlier recommendation against a ban on breeding from offspring of infected dams.

The 19-month-old greater kudu antelope was put down on November 13 after displaying

nervous symptoms similar to those which killed her mother in August. Examination of brain tissue has now confirmed the presence in both cases of a spongiform encephalopathy.

The mother, like four other antelopes which have died from spongiform encephalopathy in British zoos since 1986, was exposed to feed containing bone-meat from the offal of scrapie-infected sheep, which is believed to have caused the outbreak of BSE in cattle. However, her offspring was born nine months after such feed was banned and the only likely explanation for her death seems to be that she was infected by her mother.

If maternal transmission can occur in antelope, there is concern that it might occur in cattle also. Both species belong to the bovidae family, along with sheep and goats. The assumption has been that cattle which have eaten infected feed are "dead-end hosts" for the disease. However, if they can pass BSE or eradication of the disease could be much harder.

So far, sheep are the only species where spongiform encephalopathy, popularly called scrapie in sheep, is known to be transmitted from mother to offspring, probably via infection of the placenta. The disease can be transmitted to mink and, in laboratory con-

ditions, to mice but not by maternal transmission.

A group of 312 cattle born to BSE-affected mothers is being monitored at the agriculture ministry's experimental husbandry farm at Bowworth, in Cambridgeshire. None has so far developed BSE, which scientists consider encouraging. The oldest animal is now 2½ years old, whereas the youngest recorded case of feed-related BSE occurred at 22 months.

Dr Tyrrell said it did not worry him that a cud-chewing ruminant such as a kudu might appear to behave like a sheep, whereas another ruminant such as a cow did not. "We cannot lump all ruminants together and assume they are all going to behave exactly the same way," he said. "It would not surprise me if we did get the occasional case of dam-to-offspring transmission in cows. All the evidence we have, and it gets stronger month by month, is that if it does occur, it does not occur very often, and in that sense we are safer and safer with our present policy."

"If it were to turn out that there was a high frequency of maternal transmission, then there might be a case for considering a policy of slaughtering the offspring of BSE-affected cows. But it is beginning to look as if there cannot be a high transmission rate."

## Unions ask Major to halt Sunday trading

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

UNION leaders representing more than 350,000 shopworkers asked the prime minister last night to prevent big stores opening illegally tomorrow and on the next Sunday before Christmas.

In a move bitterly opposed by the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) some large retailers have decided to risk fines by opening on Sundays to increase their profits and offer customers a better service. The union claims they are deliberately breaking the law in the face of a House of Lords judgment, expected next month, which will determine whether they can continue their policy of opening on Sundays.

The union believes the stores are in flagrant breach of the 1950 Shops Act prohibiting Sunday trading. Usdaw has also written to the leaders of every district council, reminding them of their obligation to enforce the Sunday trading law.

Retailers, throughout England and Wales, are waiting to see whether the Law Lords come out in favour of the B&Q do-it-yourself chain, which is contesting High Court orders forcing it to suspend Sunday trading at Norwich and Stoke-on-Trent.

The B&Q stores remain closed in those towns, but in other centres the chain has been quite happy to face fines, imposed by magistrates, of up to £800 and to

continue trading with the risk of being prosecuted again.

B&Q considers the law on Sunday trading, which it believes to be a grey area, is contrary to European practice and amounts to a ban on fair cross-border trading.

Confronted by a writer of apparently equivocal legal opinion, some chain stores were yesterday guarded as to whether they would ask their staff to turn up on Sunday. The Woolworth stores group said yesterday that it had yet to decide what to do.

Marks & Spencer said that while its stores in Scotland, where the law is different, would be open on Sundays, the company had no intention of breaking the law in England and Wales.

Garfield Davies, Usdaw's general secretary, said that extra opening hours would increase pressure on staff without contributing to additional company profits.

"The only result, as far as extra business is concerned, is that those shops who open illegally on Sundays will steal trade from their law-abiding competitors who remain closed," he said.

"There is no question of Sunday trading creating more jobs, as either shopworkers' hours are switched or casual labour is taken on for a few more hours. No permanent jobs will be created and very few existing staff will even get paid any more money."

## Prince causes stir in the forests

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Forestry Commission yesterday stood by its assertion that forest trees were being made a scapegoat over acid pollution, despite a suggestion by the Prince of Wales that insufficient attention had been paid to the role of conifer plantations in increasing acidity of rivers and lakes.

Earlier this year the commission said that forest trees had been made the scapegoats for a problem caused mainly by acid rain and air pollution. That had led to forestry projects being abandoned after protests from water authorities.

In a speech last Wednesday, however, the prince appeared to contradict the commission by calling for more research into the apparent capacity of conifer plantations in upland areas to trap acid rain and eject it into rivers and streams. He said many upland

areas had been deprived of trout, salmon and sea trout.

He thought insufficient attention was given to "the potential for this sort of environmental damage when large grants are handed out for planting or replanting in inappropriate areas."

A commission official said yesterday: "We certainly recognise that in certain areas, particularly in parts of Wales and southwest Scotland, we do not yet know enough about the acidification of rivers and streams." The commission was involved in research with other bodies.

The official said the commission's guidelines said that conifers should not be planted within five metres of rivers or streams and that little planting took place in such areas. The environment department said yesterday that it

was aware that conifers could have an adverse effect on water quality, but it was also aware of the expense of dealing with the problem.

Seepage could be one of Britain's most exciting natural resources, energy and environmental scientists said yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes). They were responding to claims by the Prince of Wales that water companies, facing a ban on dumping sewage in the sea, should view it as a valuable resource.

Yesterday the experts said they were studying a variety of ways to fulfill the prince's hopes. One process would harness old and newly identified micro-organisms to break down waste into a natural gas that can be turned into electricity and sold into the national grid.

## Irresistible fall of the weekly

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CONFRONTED with the relentless proliferation of colour magazines, Saturday supplements and leisure sections, it is easy to see how the appetite of the average newspaper reader for the weekly political-cum-literary periodicals has become jaded.

Institutions such as the *New Statesman*, *Punch* and *The Spectator*, which in the Fifties and Sixties attracted writers of the calibre of Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene and Malcolm Muggeridge, are in danger of becoming an anachronism.

The BBC's decision to close the 61-year-old *Listener*, which has seen circulation drop from 153,000 at its 1949 peak to just 16,500 today, again highlighted the decline of the intellectual weekly — in terms of both clout and revenue. Once radio and

television began to pre-empt the newspapers' monopoly on news, newspapers were forced to encroach on the territory of the periodicals, with magazine-length features and more comment and analysis. The expansion in size by the quality weekend newspapers combined with the advent of colour advertising in newspapers and supplements has hit the likes of the *New Statesman* and *Spectator* hard.

Now experiencing the worst advertising recession in living memory, it is impossible for the weeklies to even dream of maintaining advertising share.

The *New Statesman*, which merged for its survival two years ago with the *Sixties* start-up *New Society*, has had fewer financial resources than *The Spectator* to survive the decline. The left-wing

periodical has many times tried but failed to attract the sort of backing that *The Spectator* has enjoyed under the ownership of the *Telegraph* proprietor Conrad Black.

"Only the magazines that have the luxury of being a rich man's toy seem likely to survive," said Alan Coren, the *Times* columnist and former editor of both *The Listener* and *Punch*.

Stuart Weir, who recently resigned as editor of *New Statesman* and *Society*, said yesterday: "There are plenty of right-wing companies and individuals willing not only to keep *The Spectator* going but to invest in it by paying large bills for marketing and promotion. That sort of money has never been available to the *Statesman*, which was badly managed over the Eighties in a way that *The Spectator* wasn't."

Under the editorship of Paul Johnson, circulation of *The New Statesman* reached 90,000, but under Richard Crossman and Anthony Howard sales fell to under 40,000. The magazine's circulation has fallen from 47,000 just after the merger with *New Society* in 1988 to below 25,000.

Circulation of the 162-year-old *Spectator*, recently aided by controversial interviews with Nicholas Ridley and Lord Denning, has risen in the last few years, but it is still hovering at only about 30,000. Sales of the 138-year-old *Punch* have fallen from 70,000 in the early Eighties to well below 40,000.

However, where *The Spectator* has concentrated on bolstering subscriptions, with two-thirds of its sales revenue now from that source, *New Statesman* and *Society* has not.

National newspapers have also wooed away many of the best columnists and writers from the periodicals. Readers need not turn to a magazine to find their favourite writers, who no longer write exclusively for any periodical. Mr Coren said: "A circulation of 20,000 to 40,000 is not enough to appeal to the vanities of the best columnists and critics, who can reach millions in a newspaper. As a result, *The Listener*, *New Statesman*, *The Spectator* and *Punch* just don't have the clout or the constituency they used to. No one in the House of Commons waves them around any more."

## Story-teller's role revived to keep rural culture alive

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE ancient role of official story-teller is to be revived to help to preserve the culture and heritage of one of the most attractive areas of rural England.

More than 90 applications have been received for the £10,000-a-year, part-time post in a section of the north Pennines designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty and bounded by the towns of Alston, Allendale and Stanhope. The job has been created under a project funded by local councils, arts organisations, the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Commission.

The successful applicant will collect and record stories from the area and encourage an interest in story-telling among local groups and schoolchildren. He or she will re-tell the stories and poems in remote villages and hamlets, in the hope of luring audiences from their television screens.

Applications closed earlier this week and the interviews are to take place in the new year, with the successful story-teller beginning work in April. The post will last for a year.

Yesterday the organisers said that the area had been chosen partly because it had little provision for the arts. "Also, like many areas considered ripe for tourism, it runs the risk of suffering from the marketing man's favourite ploy: a cosmetic repackaging of the past which becomes the dominant image of the area to visitors and, often, eventually, to residents."

Les Morgan, Wear Valley district council's head of leisure services, said: "There is a wealth of material among the older people of this area which will just disappear if it is not collated and recorded."

"We hope that the story-teller, who will work in schools as well as addressing village hall audiences, will help to preserve the true heritage of the north Pennines."

According to the job description the successful candidate will need to be "experienced and comfortable" working in a variety of community settings, willing to be flexible in the interpretation of story-telling and to have an understanding of rural life.

## Llanystumdwy honours a celebrated son

A £250,000 appeal has ensured that the memory of David Lloyd George will live on, Simon Tait reports

LLANYSTUMDWY, the one-street village in Gwynedd where David Lloyd George spent his boyhood and where he died 45 years ago, turned out yesterday for the opening of a museum and heritage trail dedicated to the Welsh wizard.

Lloyd George's image might have been tarnished for some by revelations 20 years ago of his extramarital adventures, but not for the people of North Wales. They revere him still, not so much as a war leader, social reformer, inventor of pensions or national insurance, but as the man who took them out of the Church of England.

"He is still the great man here, whatever the rest of the world says," according to Bryn Parry, Gwynedd's county archivist. "He may have had feet of clay, so have the rest of us, but we felt the centenary of his election to Parliament, which this year is, was the time to properly celebrate the international statesman who came from here."

Yesterday's gathering in the 300-strong community hall at Lloyd George's funeral when his coffin was carried on a farm cart to its riverside grave. This time the Archdruid of Wales presided as an *englynion* (a complex Celtic poem) he had written and dedicated to DLG, as he is still known in Wales, was read. The archdruid is William George, a nephew. Clough Williams Ellis, a friend

of Lloyd George and creator of the Italianate village of Portmeirion 20 miles away, created a building in Llanystumdwy to house the gifts foreign leaders gave Lloyd George. It has trebled in size to become the Lloyd George museum. A 300-seat lecture theatre has been built next to it.

Twenty yards away is Highgate, the cottage where Lloyd George lived with his uncle Richard Lloyd, the village shoemaker and the great influence on his early life. The cottage, given to Gwynedd by DLG's grandson, has been restored and furnished in 1860s style. His grave 50 yards from the museum is also part of a heritage trail, which it is hoped 30,000 tourists a year will follow.

Five British prime ministers and President Bush endorsed the appeal, which raised £250,000 to create the museum. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the only other 20th-century prime minister (apart from, briefly, Ramsay MacDonald) to represent a Welsh constituency, opened it.

Memorabilia in the museum include the "People's Budget" Lloyd George introduced as Chancellor in 1909, which he dedicated to his "Uncle Lloyd" as the real author.

Much is made of how the Lloyd George story was interpreted by television. In 1973 his family tried to stop the televising of a play in which Lloyd George's libidinous side rather than his politics was the focus.

In the future it created, Sir Dingle Foot wrote to *The Times* quoting Sir Winston Churchill's words after Lloyd George's death: "When the English history of the first quarter of the century is written it will be seen that the greater part of our future in peace and war was shaped by this one man."



Welsh hero and charismatic leader: a museum poster



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# Thousands drafted in to restore power to blizzard region

By CRAIG SETON

EAST Midlands Electricity said yesterday that more than 2,500 staff had been drafted in from other electricity companies to cope with the aftermath of the recent heavy snowfalls. Linesmen from as far afield as Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have been enlisted to repair damage and restore supplies. Eight helicopters are being used.

The company said that a combination of wet snow, temperature and wind speed produced conditions last weekend that created a build-up of ice on overhead power lines, which were damaged or brought down by the weight.

Many in the East Midlands are still without power, including Renate Williams and her family, who live only two miles from the power station at Ratchliffe on Soar, near Nottingham. Yesterday was the seventh day that their detached Edwardian house had been without electricity since last weekend's snowstorms brought down power lines. It has meant no central heating, lighting, hot water or

proper cooking facilities in their home at Sutton Bonington, near Loughborough on the border of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. They have been cooking food and heating water on an open fire or on a camping stove.

Yesterday, Mrs Williams was angry that her home was without power, as were the homes of 30,000 other customers of East Midlands Electricity. The family may have to wait until early next week before all of the 2,600 miles of electricity lines that were damaged across the region are repaired and most of their power restored. Most of those cut off are in outlying areas of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Yesterday morning, Mrs Williams said: "We have now been without power for 148 hours. The electricity company said it cannot give any indication when we are to be reconnected. It is the lack of information that is so infuriating."

Most of Sutton Bonington has had electricity restored and one of her two children,

aged 11 and 13, was able to return to the village school yesterday. Mrs Williams, whose husband, Peter, is a research chemist, said: "We have been baking potatoes on the open fire and cooking things like casseroles. Everything in our freezer is ruined. We have been out for some meals and I queued for an hour for fish and chips in the next village. We walk around by candlelight and a gas lantern, but we cannot get more gas cylinders."

Richard Williams, aged 20, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, who died when his car became trapped in weekend snowstorms, refused help from a passing off-duty policeman just hours before he died, an inquest at Nottingham was told yesterday. Mr Williams was poisoned by car fumes that leaked inside his vehicle as he ran the engine to keep warm in temperatures of -10C (14F) while stranded in 10ft snowdrifts near Mansfield. Peter Jenkin-Jones, the coroner, recorded a verdict of misadventure.



Splashing out: a water authority worker disinfects concrete pillars before the newly built Headley reservoir is filled with five million gallons of water. East Surrey Water has spent £1.1 million on the reservoir, which is to supply 80,000 consumers in the Reigate, Salfords and Horley area. The water authority says that the extra capacity is needed to maintain its policy of having 42 hours' worth of supply in storage.

## Indecision on office 'cost public £14m'

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

MORE than £14 million of taxpayers' money was wasted through indecision by officials over the London headquarters for Customs and Excise investigators, according to the public spending watchdog, the National Audit Office.

An enquiry found that the losses came after the Property Services Agency leased offices

in Worship Street in central London in 1987 to house the investigators. At the time, the agency rejected updating the Customs House in Lower Thames Street. However, it later abandoned the Worship Street project and rehoused staff in the Customs House.

An audit office report said: "The department [Customs and Excise] withdrew from the Worship Street project in December 1988, some 12 months after refurbishment and occupational works had started. The agency took immediate action to cancel as much of the occupational works as possible. The department accepted responsibility for meeting the remaining owners' and contractors' costs."

The report said that the total estimated cost to the Treasury of the abandoned project was £14.4 million by September of this year, and urged government departments to avoid such losses when forming long-term accommodation strategy.

## Housing to be Labour priority

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR promised yesterday to push housing up the political agenda by seeking to improve the supply and quality of homes. Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, accused Michael Heseltine of being the architect of policies which had helped to cause a housing crisis.

In a speech to the House Builders' Federation, Mr Gould said that Labour would allow councils to spend their capital receipts on new building. A planning classification would be created to encourage cheaper housing in rural areas for local people.

Housing associations would also have a role in developing rural property for local families and part-rent, part-buy schemes would be encouraged.

Mr Gould said that the urban development corporation policy pursued by Mr Heseltine during his previous period as environment secretary was not a success. It had failed to lever huge amounts of private money into inner cities but in areas like Docklands had created "unbalanced social apartheid".

## Policeman jailed for bomb hoax

A policeman who planted a fake bomb at a shopping centre while on patrol alone at night was jailed for six months by Winchester crown court yesterday.

PC Nicholas Tolson, a 25-year-old father of three, of Tidworth, Hampshire, denied the offence and did not give evidence at his trial.

The fake bomb was found outside a Boots store at Andover, Hampshire, after Tolson made a radio call saying that he had disturbed some masked men there. Swarf inside the package was found to match that found inside his car, the court was told. Tolson faces dismissal from the police on his release from prison.

## Chalker in talks on famine aid

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

LYNDA Chalker, the overseas aid minister, is to have urgent talks next week with charities such as Oxfam and Save the Children Fund to see what further help can be given to the starving people of Ethiopia and Sudan.

She told MPs it was clear there would be severe famine and widespread loss of life "unless action is taken by the international community to help these desperate people". Over the next few days decisions would have to be taken on what further help needed to be sent to the Horn of Africa to prevent the sort of catastrophe seen in 1984 and 1985.

Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, said there was a sense of public outrage that after that "great emotional public response to the famine in Ethiopia we should be asking people again to dip into their pockets". They were not reluctant to do so, but were asking what had been done in the years since that appeal "to right the situation". Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, attacked the British and other Western governments for failing to do more for the third world.

## Victim's award

Charles Jefferies, aged 32, who admitted cutting an Asian spectator's face with a beer glass during a Sussex-Warwickshire cricket match at Eastbourne in August, was ordered to pay his victim £1,000 compensation at Lewes crown court yesterday. Jefferies, of Polegate, East Sussex, was also ordered to do 240 hours' community service.

## Jobs boost

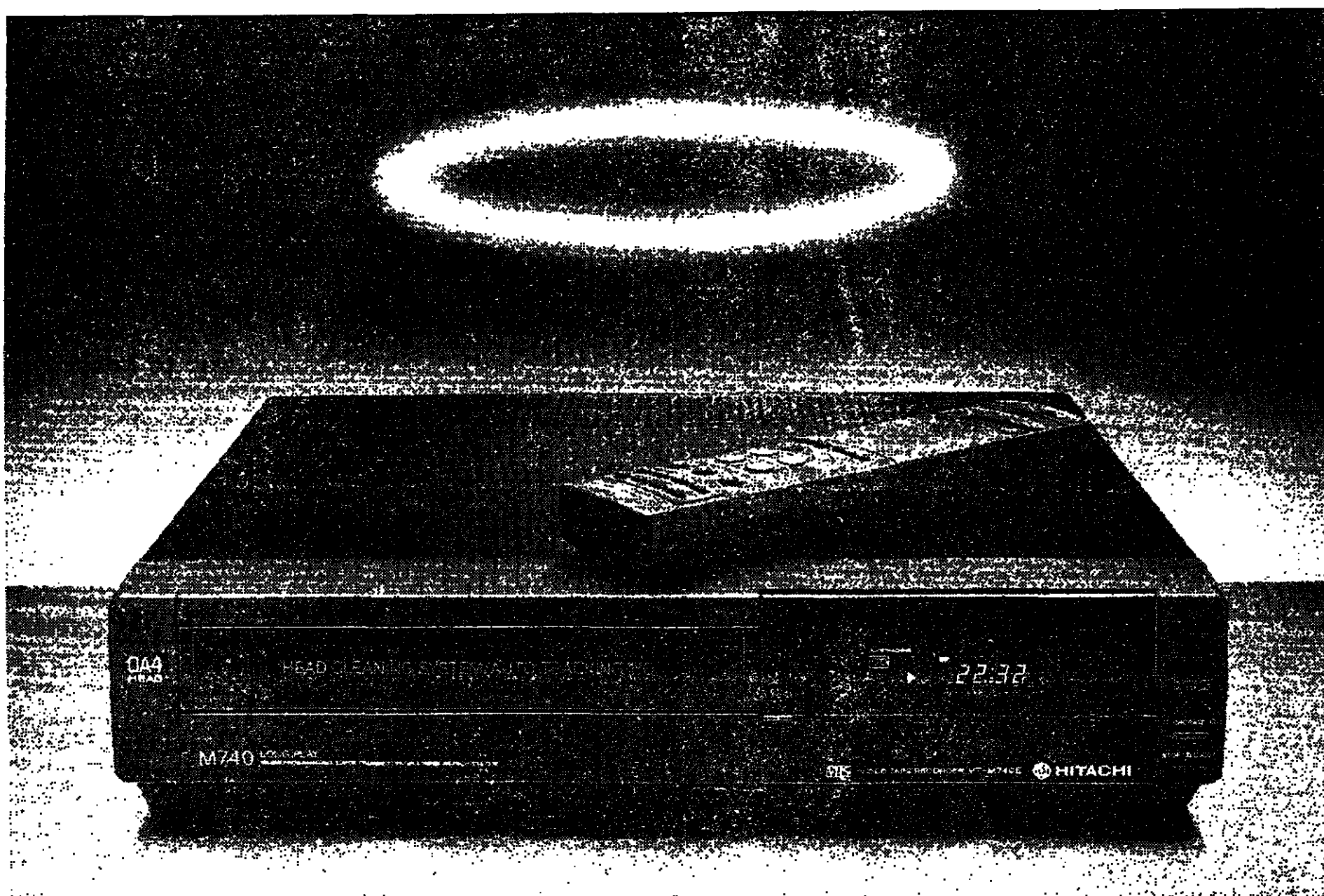
A thousand jobs are to be created in a £30 million plan to build new houses and shops on derelict British Rail land at Sneinton, Nottingham. Nottingham city council and Nottinghamshire county council are joining forces to build a business park on the 37-acre site.

## Tractor death

Mark Poynter, aged 16, died after his farm tractor overturned and pinned him down, police said yesterday. Mark, of Ewe Tree Farm, Crook, Cumbria, was released by police and a mountain rescue team but was found to be dead on arrival at hospital.

## Security chief

Superintendent David Reeve, aged 44, is the new chief of security for the royal family at the Queen's Sandringham estate in Norfolk. His first duties will be at Christmas when the Queen and her family begin their traditional six-week stay there.



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مكتبة من الأصل



# Cheney puts case for force as sanctions take time to bite

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

RICHARD Cheney, the American defence secretary, told congressmen yesterday that there was "no guarantee" that sanctions would force Iraq to disgorge Kuwait and make his strongest case to date for swift military action if Iraq had not withdrawn by the January 15 deadline.

His statements came amid signs that an angry President Bush was preparing to retract his offer of direct talks with Iraq if Baghdad refused its agreement to dates acceptable to America.

Mr Cheney, appearing before the House armed services committee, said: "I hear a lot of talk about 'Let's let sanctions work. Why don't we wait a year or two and see if in fact sanctions won't force him to get out?' They might; I can't say they won't, but nobody can persuade me either that there is a high probability of that." The UN trade embargo represented "the most impressive set of economic sanctions

the world has ever seen" and were having a "significant impact", he acknowledged, but "there's absolutely no evidence whatsoever that Saddam Hussein is prepared to... withdraw".

President Saddam had the ability to direct resources to where they were most needed. Iraq was able to produce enough food to support itself. Over time the sanctions would hurt his air power, but probably not his ground forces, and meanwhile the stand-off was severely affecting the economies of neighbouring Arab states and the new democracies of East Europe.

Just three days before the planned visit to Washington of Tariq Aziz, Iraq's foreign minister, the Iraqi and American governments had still failed by early yesterday to agree a date for James Baker, the Secretary of State, to see President Saddam in Baghdad, and two Republican senators, who met President Bush

yesterday, said that he was prepared to abandon the initiative.

"He believes Saddam needs to get the point that it's Saddam who's in trouble, and if we have no meetings, so be it," said Richard Lugar, a senior Republican. The Bush administration said it will not receive Mr Aziz on Monday unless President Saddam drops his insistence that he cannot see Mr Baker until January 12. Washington insists this is too near the January 15 UN deadline for the use of force against Iraq, and is accusing the Iraqis of trying to buy time.

"He can see John Connally, he can see Muhammad Ali, he can see Ted Heath and so on, at 15 minutes' notice," one exasperated official was quoted as saying yesterday. "You're telling me he doesn't have an hour or two hours or whatever it takes between December 20 and January 3 to see the US Secretary of State?"

The Pentagon is meanwhile continuing its detailed preparations for war. With the last of the US hostages arriving home yesterday, American military commanders are reportedly revising their lists of potential targets in Iraq to include military and other strategic installations where the hostages had been kept as "human shields". The Los Angeles Times reported that, despite the administration's repeated assertions that military plans would not be influenced by the location of the hostages, certain "secondary" targets had in fact been declared off-limits.

The Pentagon has made contingency arrangements with civilian hospitals in the United States to provide specialised treatment or longer-term facilities for wounded American servicemen, a spokesman said. It has also activated, for the first time, a long-standing contract to procure extra blood and blood products from civilian blood banks for Gulf use.

On a lighter note, The Washington Post disclosed yesterday that the Pentagon has chartered the *Camard Princess*, a luxury cruise ship, to go to the Gulf and provide three or four-day periods of rest and relaxation for up to 800 desert-weary servicemen at a time. The six-month charter is costing \$31 million (£16.3 million), and the Pentagon is looking for a second vessel despite fears of some officials that the ships could become terrorist targets.

Polls meanwhile show the American public to be deeply divided on whether America should go to war if Iraq has not withdrawn from Kuwait by January 15. A New York Times survey published yesterday showed 45 per cent in favour of military action, and 48 per cent in favour of giving sanctions more time. However by 51 to 39 per cent respondents to a Wall Street Journal poll said an agreement under which Iraq withdrew from Kuwait in return for concessions on a disputed oilfield would be acceptable.

Anti-war declaration, page 14

## Three more Jews stabbed to death

From PAUL ADAMS IN JAFFA

THREE Israelis were stabbed to death yesterday in an aluminium factory on the edge of this mixed Jewish-Arab town.

The Israelis, two men and a woman, were the latest victims of a spate of attacks on Jews which has left seven dead and 16 injured since the October killing of at least 17 Arabs outside the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Police suspect Islamic militants of carrying out yesterday's murders. The police commissioner, Yacovov Termer, said slogans daubed on the factory walls indicated that the outlawed Hamas organisation was responsible.

After the discovery of the bodies, dozens of angry Israelis lined nearby roads, stoning Arab cars and chanting: "Death to the Arabs!" One Arab was stabbed in the head and several Jews were arrested.

The distinctive yellow flag of the extreme right-wing Kach organisation, whose fiery leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane, was shot dead in New York last month, were also on display.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, returning from a trip to Washington, called the attack a terrifying murder. "I believe our people will consult on measures to prevent a repetition of these kinds of things," he said.

At least one right-wing politician, Yuval Neeman, the science and energy minister, spoke of a possible backlash against Arabs. "If the government will not take drastic measures it won't be possible to prevent any more spontaneous Jewish execution squads from revenge killings on Arabs," he said.

Mr Neeman said he had been advocating the expulsion of intifada leaders and the censorship of sermons in



Shamir pledged measures to prevent repetition

ber of Arabs commuting to jobs in Israel. Palestinians are already worried by the number of special green identity cards being issued, forbidding holders from entering Israel. Several trade unionists and journalists have been issued with the cards, prompting fears that the restrictions have little to do with security.

Marty Rosenbluth, an American who works with Palestinian trade unions, said that the green card scheme was designed to combat grassroots political activism.

بلاذق الأصل



Shin guard: US Marine Lance Corporal Tamara Rowbotham, shouldering her rifle in military-issue jogging shorts, with her sergeant in Saudi Arabia

## Iraq sees 'new dark era'

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ, posing as the defender of the free world, yesterday spoke of a dark new era if its forces lost a war in the Gulf. A victorious President Bush, it said, would turn into an international dictator and enslave poorer nations.

"Without victory, God forbid, a new American era will prevail over our world," said an editorial in *al-Thawra*, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party. "It will be the era of international dictatorship where the American president turns out to be an international dictator."

Unless Iraq won, "the Third World nations will turn into groups of slaves, humanity will enter a dark era, the future of humanity will be fully controlled (by the US) and the situation will be worse than the days of old colonialism," said *al-Thawra*.

Insisting that an Iraqi victory was close, *al-Thawra* said: "It is an honour for Arabism that Iraq and the Arab nation are confronting American arrogance, therefore the Arab nation in this battle has no alternative but victory by God's will."

With a United Nations deadline authorising force to free Kuwait just a month away and direct talks between Washington and Baghdad deadlocked over disagreement on their timing, Iraq has become increasingly belligerent in recent days, dashing hopes it would make more concessions after deciding last

week to allow all foreigners to leave.

Iraq has accused the United States of trying to be the world's sole superpower in the post-Cold War era, of trying to seize control of Arab oil resources and of having bullied, cajoled, bribed and threatened a whole range of states to secure 12 United Nations Security Council resolutions in four months condemning Iraq. *al-Thawra*

said any war between Iraq and the American-led multinational forces "is Iraq's battle, Palestine's battle, the Third World's battle and the battle of future humanity".

In the early days of the confrontation over Kuwait, President Saddam Hussein tried to seize the moral high ground by offering free oil to Third World countries whose economies were squeezed by rising oil prices.

## Defenders of animal rights get the hump

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THOSE who doubt the American public's mettle to stomach a war in the Gulf must have sighed in despair at a recent fuss made about a couple of camels. Pictures of two hit by mortar fire during a United States forces' training exercise in Saudi Arabia had hardly flashed on to television screens when a Boston-based animal protection group wrote to President Bush's chief military adviser, Colin Powell.

Its members complained at seeing one of the beasts dead and another suffering while American officers made a frantic search for its owner even though the programme explained that Saudi law does not permit the killing of camels on humane grounds without their owners' permission. General Powell passed the note to Norman Schwarzkopf, the United States commander for Operation Desert Shield, whose legal advisers replied that the host country would bend the rules in future. The Saudis seem to hold no grudges: a group of Bedouin has donated a female camel named Suzie to give rides to off-duty troops.

Meanwhile, the human suffering in the Gulf is making compelling reading as newspapers in America appeal to families to share with millions of unknown compatriots the emotional letters from their loved ones in the desert. *USA Today* has been running a "letters home" corner guaranteed to leave dry the eyes of only granite-hearted readers. Dear mom and dad, Dear sweetheart, Dear folks, they begin, describing scorpions the size of field mice and snakes in their tents.

"Dear puddy-pie," wrote Sharon Foster, aged 22, to her 17-month-old son to explain why she and her husband, army medics, are away. "Not a day goes by where I don't call your name, picture your little face or yearn to hold you tight in my loving mother's arms."

Charles Shahan, a private first class in the marines, aged 19, wrote to his grandparents: "I've never really been scared before, until I came here. It's scary thinking I might not make it back."

## Growing fears in Jordan of war

Amman — Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan said yesterday that there was a growing resignation among his 3.4 million compatriots to the possibility of a Gulf war in which Jordan, formerly a highly regarded strategic ally of the West, could become involved (Christopher Walker writes).

In an interview with *The Times*, the prince also made a plea for issues such as the Palestine problem to be dealt with separately, so that Iraq and America could concentrate, in the weeks before the January 15 UN deadline, on Baghdad's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. The prince, who has been associated with the current peace mission of President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, also called for confidence-building measures on both sides to help avoid war. He said that America had not paid sufficient regard to Iraq's recent decision to release all hostages.

## Hungarian aid

Budapest — Hungary plans to send a volunteer medical team to the Gulf. A defence ministry spokesman said yesterday that if parliament approves, Budapest will send a team of about 50 volunteers that could either work with British land forces in the region or assist a Saudi Arabian hospital. (Reuters)

## Red Cross plea

Geneva — The Red Cross criticised Iraq yesterday for continuing to prevent its delegates from working in Kuwait and Iraq, and issued a notice to all signatories of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which protect victims of war, as a reminder of the need to respect the provisions if hostilities start. (Reuters)

## Tokyo defiant

Tokyo — Japan rejected criticism of its Gulf policy by hostages returning home in the past two weeks from Iraq. Tokyo has sent money but not troops to the international force. The government said that any separate deal would have fractured the alliance against President Saddam Hussein. (Reuters)

## Home, but now job hunt begins

By JANET WHITMAN AND ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ESCAPE from President Saddam Hussein's human shield and return to the UK has left many of those who lived and worked in Kuwait with nothing but the clothes on their backs. The Gulf Support Group is now attempting to help 700 to 800 people who need to find work.

David Dorrington, a former hostage who works at the Gulf Support Group centre in London, counts himself lucky. His employer, a Kuwaiti bank, is continuing to pay him and has told him not to worry about his job, to which he intends to return once the confrontation is over.

Others have not been so fortunate. "People are coming back and not knowing what is going on," Mr Dorrington said. "Most of them have only the clothes they stand up in. All I've got are short-sleeved shirts and trousers not suitable for England now that the weather has changed."

Many of the hostages had jobs in Kuwait and the majority of them intend to return to the Gulf, but in the meantime they will need to find work. The support group, made up of 30 to 40 volunteers, estimates that, of the 1,400 hostages who returned to Britain, 700 to 800 will be seeking employment. It cited the example of a former hostage who phoned to say that the company which had been paying half of his salary to his wife while he was being held had now told him they no longer have a job for him.



A former hostage, David Dorrington, helping his wife, Sue, at the office of the Gulf Support Group

"They've got to get jobs," said Mr Dorrington, "but what do you do when you have nothing to wear but a tatty jacket?"

"People are reacting differently to those who have returned now that they are no longer hostages. There must be employers who can give jobs to these people."

Louise Hamilton, the group's office co-ordinator, said that yesterday was dreadful. "Some former hostages haven't lived here for several years and they just don't know where to turn. They have no money. Some have no clothes."

The group now hopes to form a sub-group, the Kuwait Expatriates Group, to deal with the problems faced by those who have returned to

Britain. "We hope to keep them going, as we kept their families going when they were away," Ms Hamilton said.

The Foreign Office estimates that there are now about 35 Britons in Kuwait and 120 in Iraq, after the departure of 23 people on Thursday.

Harold Walker, ambassador to Iraq, who travelled home with them, said he expected the number in Iraq would fall below 100 next week, including embassy staff. He is to discuss the situation with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on Monday.

They will discuss, among other matters, contingency plans for the 17 remaining embassy staff in Baghdad if war does break out. Mr Hurd

is thought to be considering reducing the embassy to a skeleton staff, as was done in Kuwait in August. With most of the Britons already home, the heavy work load of recent weeks is expected to ease.

Michael Weston and Larry Banks, the two remaining diplomats in Kuwait, are expected home next week after completing their efforts to contact those Britons whom they want to be sure that no one has missed warnings to leave broadcast by the BBC World Service. The departure of the two diplomats will mean that any remaining Europeans will have no further way of seeking consular help. They have been a point of contact for people from other EC countries, whose diplomats left earlier.

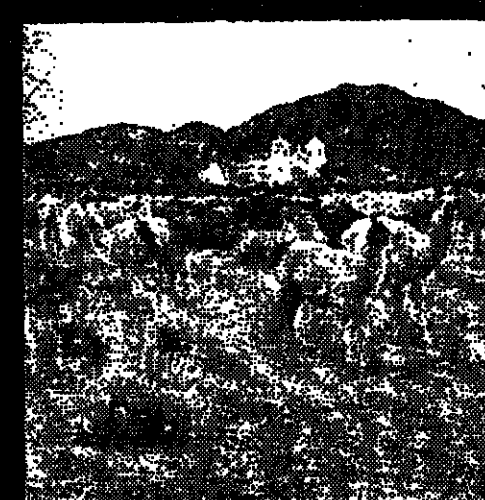
Diplomats who left the embassy in Kuwait in September were prevented from returning to Britain and have been working at the embassy in Baghdad, but no repetition of this problem is expected when Mr Weston and Mr Banks leave.

Mr Walker said that life in the embassy in Baghdad was normal, except for long days spent in the office. The impression of normality is thought by observers to be artificial, fostered by Baghdad to maintain public confidence.

Mr Walker will not remain in Britain after the talks and a few days leave. He said he would probably return to Baghdad on December 28, which would mean missing his daughter's wedding in January.

Diary, page 14

# FOR THE PEOPLE



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## Rome summit shores up Gorbachev as it tackles future of a peaceful Europe

## EC agrees to package of food aid for Soviet Union

From MICHAEL BINYON

EUROPEAN leaders agreed here yesterday to begin urgent food deliveries to the Soviet Union to stave off hunger in the big cities and reinforce the position of President Gorbachev.

The summit leaders broadly accepted proposals by Jacques Delors, the Commission president, put to EC finance ministers on Monday, for a minimum food aid package of 250 million euros (£200 million). But there was sharp division among the Twelve on whether another 500 million euros in loans should be made available, as proposed by M. Delors.

The Soviet Union will also receive a further 400 million euros in technical assistance in the coming year under its current co-operation agreement with the EC.

The leaders may leave a final decision on the total aid package, and the division between grants and loans, to finance ministers who will meet on Monday. M. Delors strongly urged them to give a firm political commitment. He said the situation was exceptional and without immediate help "the Soviet Union could not be saved".

Britain, Germany, France and Spain gave a warning, however, that huge credits to Moscow would only burden the Russians with more debt.

overturning an already strained economy.

But dumping large amounts of food on the Soviet market would only undercut Soviet producers and make the shortages worse. They want virtually all aid to be in the form of donations.

Despite earlier reservations, Britain joined its partners in supporting food aid. John Major said a clear message should go out from Rome that the community gave full backing for Mr Gorbachev and his policies.

However, he questioned the need for food on such a scale. There was no impending starvation. It was bad distribution, hoarding and racketeering that had led to the present crisis. Britain saw a strong case for food aid that went "directly to the hungry", and was within reasonable financial limits.

What the Soviet Union now needed was stock control, modern food-processing machinery and a lorry fleet. The EC should not give the Russians more than the economy could absorb.

Other EC leaders agreed. It was vital EC aid did not end up in the burgeoning Soviet black market. They called on the EC to take the same steps as the Germans to ensure that aid was properly delivered. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, underlined the



Community spirit: Douglas Hurd, left, the foreign secretary, and John Major talking with an interpreter before the opening of the EC summit in Rome yesterday. An Italian newspaper greeted the British team with the headline "Exit the Iron Lady, enter the Iron Chancellor".

political importance to the community of supporting Mr Gorbachev. There was no alternative to him, and if he failed it would cost the EC much more in the long run. He reminded his partners of the huge sums the West could now save in military spending as a result of Mr Gorbachev's policies.

Felipe González, the Spanish prime minister, said nothing should be done which would give the impression the EC was trying to undermine central authority in the Soviet Union. Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, said technical assistance was what

the Russians really needed, and this should be better co-ordinated with international agencies.

President Mitterrand of France went further; he said the whole Soviet Union was in a state of emergency and the EC should help not only with food, but also in industry, energy, distribution and telecommunications. "We must help Mr Gorbachev in good time," he said.

The community also discussed the worsening energy plight of Eastern Europe, and the huge economic difficulties

Leading article, page 13

## Split in ranks on defence

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DIFFERENCES between Britain and its European partners over defence and security are to be aired during the inter-governmental conference on political union, one of two EC conferences which will be given a formal opening in Rome today.

The government is expected to oppose a proposal by the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and President Mitterrand that the nine-nation

Western European Union should be placed under the European Council, which consists of the 12 heads of state or government. There is concern that this could shift the main emphasis away from the North Atlantic Alliance.

The Franco-German proposal stemmed from a paper written by the WEU's secretariat, based in London. The secretariat's recommendation said the WEU "could be

placed under the European Council, with the aim of enabling the heads of state and government to discuss all aspects of Europe's defence and security without there being any "taboo" subjects. This would make clearer the long-term commitment to a European Union including a defence dimension...".

The paper argues that the EC has already made such a commitment.

## Snub for Rock

Madrid — The Spanish government turned down a Gibraltar offer to open its airport to Spanish airlines because it was outside the scope of the bilateral agreement between Britain and Spain. Joe Bossano was quoted here as saying he would agree to joint use of the airport "provided such utilisation is not considered to be within the framework of the Spanish-British agreement of 1987", which Gibraltar has opposed from the beginning.

## Bangladesh poll

Dhaka — Bangladesh is to hold parliamentary elections on March 2. The poll date was announced as political leaders pondered what to do with Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who was ousted as president last week. He is under house arrest, but no charges have been brought against him. The government is torn between putting him on trial for corruption and abuse of power, or sending him into exile abroad.

## Land policy

Harare — President Mugabe of Zimbabwe yesterday justified his government's plans to seize white-owned farmland, saying it was necessary to counter the slipping fortunes of his government. He told a meeting of the ruling Zanu (PF) party central committee that "nothing must stand in our way to the acquisition of any land we identify". He admitted that political apathy was creeping into the "mass structures" of the party.

## Refugee protest

Hong Kong — Seven Vietnamese boat people from a detention camp were in hospital yesterday after setting fire to themselves in a protest at being classed as "economic migrants" with no right to resettlement in the West.

## De Klerk offered sanctions hope

From ROBIN OAKLEY

EXPECTATION was growing among delegations at the European Council in Rome last night that EC leaders would agree to ease trade sanctions against South Africa to give encouragement to President de Klerk's programme of dismantling apartheid.

The most likely gesture appeared to be an ending of the ban on new investment on South Africa, agreed by the community in September 1986. The voluntary ban has already been relaxed by Britain and Italy.

EC leaders, encouraged by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, was said yesterday to be keen to send a signal of encouragement to President de Klerk, although there was resistance from Ireland and Denmark to any easing of sanctions.

The relaxation of the investment ban was expected to be the limit of EC action for the moment, with further moves to be dependent on more progress in South Africa. There was understood to be

no intention of relaxing yet the measures agreed in 1985, which included a ban on the export of "sensitive" equipment for the South African police and armed forces, the cessation of oil exports and a ban on new collaboration in nuclear energy projects.

Mrs Thatcher, when prime minister, had urged the EC to drop trade sanctions. She criticised other community leaders after the Dublin summit earlier this year for failing to give encouragement to President de Klerk's reforms. John Major, her successor, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, have not played a prominent part in the latest efforts to secure an easing of sanctions, as it was felt that conspicuous British involvement could prove counter-productive.

Mr Major did not raise the subject of South African sanctions at his bilateral meeting yesterday with Herr Kohl.

Sanctions line, page 11  
R. W. Johnson, page 12

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## Handbag of tributes to a woman scorn'd

By MICHAEL BINYON

Never was woman so missed. It took a stupefied Britain days to realise she was gone. The European Community still cannot come to terms with her absence. Who now will push herself forward to the centre of the family photograph? Who will now prick the balloons of Euro-babble, speak the harsh words so many secretly love to hear? Who will now abuse her fellow leaders with such engaging condescension?

The most flowery tributes, of course, were paid by those who manoeuvred most skilfully to ambush Margaret Thatcher at her last appearance here. "We will miss her as the only lady sitting with us," Pio Mastroianni, the Italian prime minister's spokesman, said with silver-haired gallantry. Was it coincidence that the second Rome summit has moved out of the Palazzo Madama, named after another Margaret of more distant Italian history, into the Palazzo Montecitorio?

Oh for a demon figure against whom the angels of European unity can stand out in shining colours! Oh for a bad fairy to send a frisson and pronounce a curse at the birth of the mewling European union! Could Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, not be persuaded to throw around his massive bulk, to goad the community into action with ultimatums, threats of Germany pressing its national interest? No way. The very thought struck horror into German officials. "Germany wants to reassure all its European neighbours that it is a dependable partner. It seeks no solo role. It knows the horrors of nationalism..." And so began the standard Kohlenscher lecture on the peaceful aspirations of a European Germany. Clearly no scope here for taking over Mrs Thatcher's role.

Nor did her successor show any willingness to play the game. Every meeting the new boy had with his colleagues in the EC class was "very friendly", marked by "close

agreement", "determination to co-operate fully", "positive exchanges".

Mr Major was all smiles and glasses in the television pictures; no sign of the famous handbag. He even began straightaway, we were told, to call Herr Kohl by his Christian name. And did the chancellor never one for languages, again commit his apocryphal gaffe, when he told Maggie in English at one of their first meetings: "You can call me you?" (Alas, she too was mystified by the difference between the more distant *Sie* and chummy *du*).

But if Mrs Thatcher is missed, how much more are British sources (aka Bernard Ingham). Where now are there growing dismissals of the clatter that others talk, their jowly analysis of why 11 member states are isolated? Gus O'Donnell, inheriting the famous pseudonym, is all bland politeness and fresh-faced pleasantness. What he does not know, he says he does not know. What back is happy with such colourless stuff? Mr Major has promised there will be no confrontation. But things may improve. He may still get into a fight with Jacques Delors, who was warning him only days ago that the community wants deeds not words from Britain. Britain has done all its quavering with Italy. But there is Luxembourg to come now, and Jacques Santer, the prime minister, and Jacques Poos, the foreign minister, are itching to put their little country back on the map again with a grand gesture of accelerated integration.

They may start off with a fine argument. Italy has yet again passed the buck on where to site the new European environment agency and other new bodies looking for a home. France is again ready to blackmail its partners into insisting that nothing moves until Strasbourg is confirmed as the permanent site of European parliamentary sessions. What it needs is a strong figure to knock heads together. Mrs Thatcher, where are you now?



## Striking workers call on Iliescu to resign in Timisoara protest

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

THOUSANDS of striking workers took to the streets of Timisoara yesterday evening as the city prepared to celebrate the anniversary of the Romanian revolution which began there a year ago this weekend.

As night fell, the workers marched through the town centre carrying anti-government banners and demanding the resignation of President Iliescu and the prime minister, Petre Roman. One slogan shouted by the workers was "Iliescu is the best pig to slaughter before Christmas."

The strikes began in Timisoara on Thursday at the Electrolux plant and by yesterday had spread to other enterprises employing up to 10,000 workers. The Timisoara industrial unrest comes after the

government succeeded in averting a general strike call by the militant drivers' union, whose lorries had been parked on the outskirts of Bucharest ready to isolate the capital if their demands were not met.

Students across Romania continued their own strikes but yesterday their leader, Marian Munteanu, said that it would have to be abandoned unless they were joined by "workers and other social categories".

Clearly nervous that the revolutionary celebrations, which are due to begin with a big opposition rally in Timisoara tomorrow, could spark violent unrest, the government has recently promised to slow its painful economic reforms. A week ago President

Iliescu announced the postponement of big increases in the price of basic foodstuffs and in the run-up to Christmas more food has been seen in the shops than for several months.

Mr Roman's government has been coming under increasing pressure since November 1, when he started to implement his radical economic reform plan. The prices of the few goods available have since more than doubled. Shoes for example, when they can be found, now cost the equivalent of 10 days' pay.

Speaking earlier in the week, Mr Roman said that the popular discontent was "justified" but that the government had "not committed any errors which, in turn, would justify our replacement". He also blamed sections of the media for heightening social tension during "an emotional" period.

On Thursday, parliament appealed for calm and issued a resolution saying: "The political and economic reform needed by the country cannot be achieved without a climate of peace... and co-operation between all parties and citizens."

While the government is under increasing pressure because of the parlous state of the economy, the anniversary of the revolution is bound to reopen several questions concerning the events of last December. A year after the violence in which more than a thousand people died, no one knows for certain who actually killed them. Only 35 people have been convicted for their part in the killings. Of late the government has begun to talk of the increasing "infiltration of foreign agents" into Romania and echoing the testimony of Iulian Vlad, the former head of the Securitate, at his trial. It has even been suggested that the uprising in Timisoara was begun by these same mysterious foreign agents.

Meanwhile, the Right Rev Laszlo Tokes, Bishop of Oradea, an ethnic Hungarian whose resistance sparked last December's event, has been subjected to increasing harassment by the pro-government press. *Azi*, the newspaper of the ruling National Salvation Front, has even accused him of a "thirst for power".



Final reckoning: an exhausted Tadeusz Mazowiecki addressing the lower house of the Polish parliament yesterday in Warsaw on his last appearance as prime minister

## No fanfare for Mazowiecki exit

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

POLAND buried the first Solidarity government yesterday. Parliament, by a vote of 224 to 16, accepted the resignation of the prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who when he came to power in September 1989 was the first non-communist head of government in the Soviet bloc.

It was a quiet funeral. The excitement that ushered in the Solidarity administration 15 months ago has fizzled out; the sense that Poland was on the brink of a grand trail-blazing experiment has been replaced by the exhaustion that was clearly reflected on the features of the defeated prime minister yesterday.

"Our government is leaving after having done only half of

what it intended to do," Mr Mazowiecki told the lower house (Sejm) in his farewell speech. "But our drafts have either been completed or work is beginning on them." Much of Mr Mazowiecki's speech was an implicit indictment of Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, who forced early presidential elections.

When Mr Walesa resoundingly defeated Mr Mazowiecki in the first round, it was obvious that the prime minister had to go. The cabinet opted to resign with him. "The foundation of our government was mutual understanding with society. We had two basic goals - to overcome the economic crisis and to build a democratic state. Unfortunately, this road has

been destroyed." How much of the Mazowiecki government will remain in place is still unclear.

Mr Walesa, when he is sworn in as president in the coming days, seems certain to choose the 60-year-old political defence lawyer Jan Olszewski as his prime minister. Mr Olszewski has held preliminary talks with the finance minister, Dr Leszek Balcerowicz, to persuade him to stay on and continue his austerity programme.

There are other candidates for the job of finance minister if Dr Balcerowicz decides to abandon government, but a great deal of international confidence, including that of the International Monetary Fund, hinges on his political survival.

## Moscow dusts off 'daubing of fools'

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

EXACTLY twenty-eight years after Nikita Khrushchev pronounced his disgust with abstract art, dismissing it as "the daubing of fools" and banning its public display, the artists have their revenge - and it is sweet.

While Khrushchev has lain in the Novodevichy cemetery these 19 years, the pictures he so disparaged have gained a second life. They have been brought out of the cellars and vaults, dusted off, and will provide the focus for a vast exhibition of abstract art which opens in Moscow on Monday. Almost 1,000 paintings and sculptures, most of them by the artists denounced by Khrushchev, will go on show in the same central exhibition hall, the Manezh, where he gave his fateful verdict.

Yesterday, as banging and sawing echoed through the cavernous hall and staff finalised the hanging, those who recalled the events of 1962 were near to tears as they saw the pictures of their youth displayed again. Here and there, a familiar painting catches the eye; but the overriding impression even now is the class of the exhibits. In what one of the exhibition staff described as "a small scandal", more than 200 were hidden until now.

Introducing the exhibition, Eli Belyutin, whose studio drew the young iconoclastic artists of the post-war generation and was last year revived for the first time since 1962, spoke for many when he said: "We could never have imagined that after all these years we would encounter so much goodwill." He said that the exhibition, entitled "Manezh '62 - Manezh '90: the new reality", had been arranged at the wish of Mikhail Gorbachev and his presidential council.

But not all is likely to go smoothly even when it has opened. Next week, Moscow will be full of congress delegates from the provinces. The abstract, but still identifiable, naked bodies and the suggested violence will draw objections. The guardians of public morality, newly invigorated by Mr Gorbachev's instruction to clamp down on pornography and raise moral standards, will also be ready. The rest, however, will be queuing in their hundreds.

Diary, page 12  
Leading article, page 13

## Tirana rulers seek ally in opposition

FROM RICHARD BASSETT AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THE Albanian president, Ramiz Alia, yesterday enlisted the support of the first Albanian opposition party, the Democratic Party, in an effort to prevent the wave of unrest spreading.

In the important steel town of Elbasan, more than 4,000 factory workers took to the streets yesterday and were alleged to have stoned the local Communist Party headquarters and police offices. The factory has faced growing unrest for several months, with workers protesting at wage cuts and the absence of any reforms.

Gramoz Pashko, an economics professor and a Democratic Party leader, said yesterday: "We must do something for the workers, and quickly. They are impatient and restless."

At least 10 demonstrators were injured in Thursday's protests in the northern Albanian city of Shkoder. There were bloody clashes between several thousand demonstrators and at least 400 policemen for more than six hours. Only the deployment of the army restored order.

According to the official Albanian news agency, 30 demon-

strators have been arrested in Shkoder.

Leaders of the Democratic Party appeared on television again yesterday to condemn the rioting in Shkoder and similar disturbances in Kavaje where, according to official reports, more than a thousand teenagers hurled stones at public buildings on Thursday, including the Communist Party headquarters.

Arlen Imami, one of the Democratic Party's activists, echoed President Alia's appeal for calm yesterday saying: "Violent demonstrations can only slow down the progress of democracy."

Opposition sources shared the government conviction that "provocateurs and dark forces" were behind the unrest. As the

opposition leadership is drawn exclusively from the ruling elite, it remains to be seen whether it can enjoy any real credibility outside the capital, Tirana. Witnesses there yesterday spoke of a growing fear that the country will slide shortly into civil war between Communists and moderate intellectuals supported by the students.

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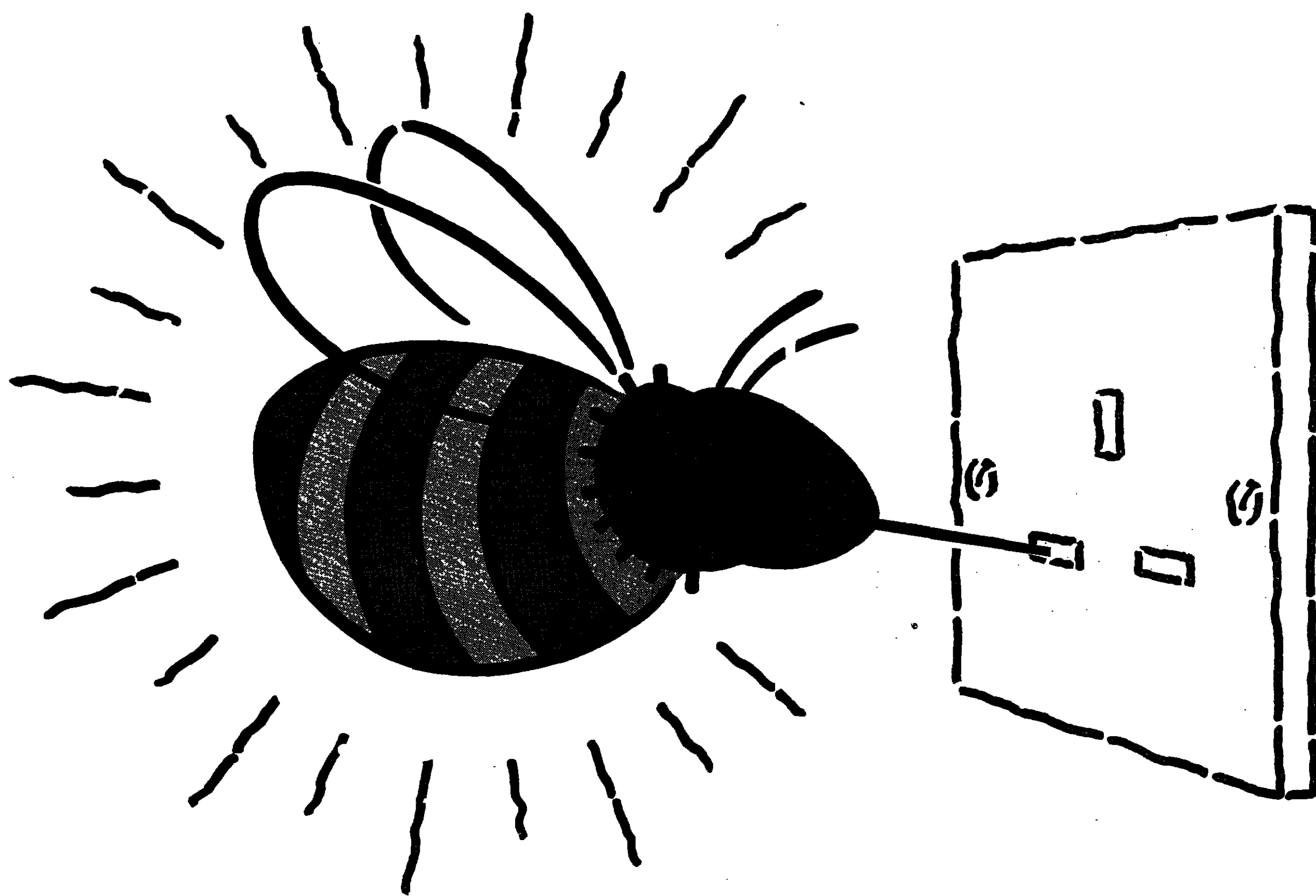
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# White House feud deprives Bush of new party chief

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush's choice for chief of the Republican Party, William Bennett, has become the latest victim of the ideological and tactical infighting which has turned the "kinder, gentler" White House into a capital joke. While Mr Bush's eyes have been fixed on the Gulf, splits have grown within his party which may soon threaten the presidency, according to senior aides.

The news that the rumbustious right-wing Mr Bennett, the former anti-drug tsar, had left the chairmanship came as a shock. The president had appointed him barely two weeks ago. But of greater interest were the conflicting accounts of who pushed him.

Officially the villain was Mr Bennett's desire to earn a fortune from books and speeches about his days as drug tsar and resident White House philosopher. But it soon became clear that a dispute had been fought between Mr Bennett and Mr Bush's chief of staff, John Sununu. The result is that Mr Bennett, who might have been one of the few powerful right-wing advocates for Mr Bush in the next two years, might oppose him for the Republican nomination in 1992.

Mr Bennett is the second senior figure this week to feel "the wrath of Sununu". On Wednesday the education secretary, Lauro Cavazos, resigned. The Bennett departure is more serious. Mr Bennett has open presidential ambitions.

The White House strategy was to keep him on the inside and encourage him to set his hopes on the end of Mr Bush's second term in 1996. The president had corralled the two other most prominent right-wingers, the housing and urban development secretary, Jack Kemp, and the Texas senator, Phil Gramm, who has recently been made head of the Senate Republican campaign committee.

This Sununu plan to curb conservative criticism of the president, which has been growing since the abandonment of the "no new taxes" pledge and exacerbated by fears of war, is now in tatters. The White House staff was already at odds over the so-called "new paradigm" programme of radical populist measures, which influential junior aides, opposed to Mr Sununu, want to see incorporated in the new year State of the Union speech.

The young right-wingers see the president's closest advisers as bureaucratic and elitist - dubbing them "social Darwinists" after the White House budget director, Richard Darman, architect of the tax-raising budget deal. Now the fiery Mr Bennett, a ready spokesman for education vouchers, assaults on bureaucracy and other conservative issues, is outside the tent - and many White House advisers are nervous what he might do to those who stayed inside.

According to statements, the reason for Mr Bennett's withdrawal was his insistence that he be allowed to fulfil two publishing contracts and earn speaking fees which had been agreed by White House counsel, but this agreement was later withdrawn.

More important, however, was the anger of Mr Sununu, who while initially supporting the appointment had resented the new chairman's demand that he be allowed sole access to the president. When Mr Bennett tested his rights with Mr Bush and Mr Sununu, forcing the president to ask his chief of staff to leave the room, Mr Sununu's mood was tense. When an account of the snub appeared in *The Washington Times*, Mr Sununu, in the words of one Republican source, "went ballistic" and insisted that the heat be turned up under Mr Bennett until he departed.

# Boy tells of night Mendes was killed

From LOUISE BYRNE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

ON THE third day of the trial of the ranchers accused of murdering Chico Mendes, the Brazilian rubber tapper and ecologist, a 15-year-old boy told the court in the Amazonian town of Xapuri that on the night the victim died he overheard Darly Alves, a ranch owner, say: "The cow is caught. Tomorrow we will kill it and have a barbecue."

Senior Alves is accused of masterminding the death of Mendes in December 1988. His son, Darci, is accused of carrying out the murder. The key witness for the prosecution, Genesio Ferreira da Silva, told the court that about three hours after Mendes died, the younger Alves arrived at the family ranch and told his father: "The man is dead."

The teenager, who lived with the Alves family for seven years, also said that the family had wanted to kill Mendes for some time. Before the teenager began to give evidence, the judge agreed to the prosecution's request that the accused be removed from the court to avoid intimidation. The young ranch hand has been in hiding in Brazil since he agreed to give evidence almost two years ago.

He told those who have supported him since he fled Xapuri that "he wanted to see the case through to the end". He also said: "If the death of Chico had not happened, I would have certainly become a gunman." The third day was expected to be taken up by evidence from about ten witnesses.

The judge, the prosecutor, the Mendes family lawyers and rubber tapper leaders cannot go out at night unaccompanied for fear of being attacked. Xapuri has become accustomed to fear.

# Haiti's poor pray for priest to win

From ALAN TOMLINSON IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

THE impoverished Haitian masses await the rainy season every year to rid them of the piles of stinking rubbish choking the ravines and gulleys which dissect their sprawling slums. In Creole, they call the cleansing flood *lavalas*.

Tomorrow the poorest people in the Western hemisphere are praying that another deluge will sweep Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a priest aged 37, into power as their president, and that with his victory the stubborn remnants of Duvalierism will be washed away.

Father Aristide is Haiti's black avenging angel. A diminutive figure with a choirboy face framed in gold-rimmed spectacles, it was he who called on Haitians to drive out the Tonton Macoute, the brutal enforcers of the old regime, in the wake of "Baby Doc" Duvalier's flight into gilded exile in February 1986. Dozens of Macoutes were hacked to death by mobs in the days that followed.

Yet many escaped the popular vengeance and, in league with a corrupt and ill-disciplined army, the survivors of the 30-year dictatorship have stood in the way of a democratic transition. An earlier attempt to elect a new president was cancelled in November

Father Aristide, a latecomer in the 11-strong presidential field, promises that he alone can now do away with the Duvalierist diarchies. Since he declared his candidacy on October 15, his campaign - under the slogan *Se lavalas* (It's the deluge) - has gathered the momentum of a political tidal wave threatening to destroy all those in his path.

Unbelievers in Father Aristide's messianic powers point out that the little priest's support is built round the jobless youths of the city slums where he taught and preached for years until his Salesian Order dismissed him for meddling in politics.

But wherever he has travelled in the countryside, ragged peasants have defied the feudal chieftains who administer the interior through a potent blend of voodoo and violence, turning out in delirious throngs to chant Aristide's name, reduced to the affectionate diminutive *Titi*.

Only one candidate has been given a chance of stopping a first-round landslide. Marc Bazin, a suave, French-educated conservative banker, seen as enjoying the backing of the American embassy here, was the undisputed front runner until Father Aristide entered the race. His slick campaign and nationwide



Off the shoulder: President Bush taking off his overcoat and suit jacket together during the ceremony of the lighting of America's national Christmas tree in Washington, watched with fascination by his grandson, Sam LeBlond, left. At the ceremony, Mr Bush spoke of the 260,000 American military personnel stationed in the Gulf region. He declared: "We feel pride thinking of our young men and women standing strong in the harsh distant deserts and on the waters of the Gulf, for their courage is the true eternal flame that will never be extinguished." Earlier, Mr Bush met seven Americans who were held captive for the four months since Iraqi troops overran Kuwait on August 2. It was the president's first meeting with former hostages.

# Tambo points to softening of ANC line on sanctions

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress is considering softening its hardline stand on sanctions, Oliver Tambo, the ANC president, confirmed yesterday at a consultative conference of the organisation on the outskirts of Soweto.

Mr Tambo, aged 73, who returned from exile on Thursday, told more than 1,600 delegates: "It is no longer enough for us to repeat the tried slogans. We should carefully re-evaluate the advisability of insisting on sanctions, given the new developments in the country and abroad."

Conference discussion papers note that trade sanctions are having little impact, and the diplomatic boycott has all but collapsed. They propose a gradual easing of trade, cultural and sports sanctions, but that financial, arms and oil embargos should remain. There should be discussions with the international business community, in preparation for investment in a post-apartheid South Africa.

After three decades of repression, the ANC senses it is close to gaining power and it is resolved to do so as quickly as possible by compelling the government to resign under popular pressure. The dramatic turnaround in the ANC's fortunes since it was unbanned in February was apparent at the conference.

A year ago, all the singing, dancing activists were outlaws, and their leaders were either in prison or in exile. Under the slogan "peace and freedom now", they are now earnestly debating strategy for realising their dream of a non-racial democracy.

Short-term tactics expected to be approved by the conference include mass demonstrations to press demands for an interim government and an elected assembly to draft a post-apartheid constitution. The overall aim is to seize the initiative from the government, and to exercise control over the negotiations process.

The sense of impending victory, however illusory it may prove to be, was expressed by Mr Tambo. He declared: "Freedom looms large on the horizon. We are finally seeing light at the end of a long and dark tunnel... we have never met at a time when there was such an amount of promise, in an hour so packed with possibilities of a great leap forward."

R. W. Johnson, page 12

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# An elite with no answer

Clifford Longley

Britain's commitment in the Gulf is second only to the American, and in Britain there is wider cross-party support. Opposition comes principally from the left of the Labour party and from within the churches. And it is more the religious intelligentsia than the official religious leadership that is marching at the head of the peace column: the "religiosis", or at least a good part of it.

The religiosis, it seems, would not fight for Queen and country, nor for the UN. Its attitude has been a striking influence on church leaders in Britain, who seem anxious not to defy too directly the pacifist intellectual consensus. It is an elite group. Last month more than 100 of its members signed a public anti-war declaration, and almost every one was a professor, a bishop, a religious superior, a theologian of known repute or something equivalent. They included the Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Rev John Baker, the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Right Rev Richard Holloway, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Rev Crispian Hollis — three of the leading churchmen of their generation.

Even more remarkable was the intellectual shoddiness of the document they signed. It is so full of holes it is hardly worth tearing to pieces, though the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, duly performed the task in last week's *Tablet*. He concluded: "Sadly, this makes war more likely."

An unspecified "Arab opinion" floats into and out of the text, allegedly holding certain views or drawing certain conclusions unfavourable to the West. No undergraduate essay writer — and most of these people have marked a lot of undergraduate essays in their time — would be allowed to get away with so phoney a rhetorical device. The more serious bits of the 800-word document skip over non sequiturs with a facility Saddam Hussein himself would admire.

The conclusion, not surprisingly, neither follows from the premises nor is supported by the argument, in so far as there is one. That conclusion, equally not surprisingly, is against military action in the Gulf.

That may be right or wrong, and it is best to assume that the case against a Gulf war is rather stronger than this one. But why did anybody sign such a pathetic tissue?

Every one of the signatories could surely have done a first-class job of it with a little effort. Bishop Harries, who accused them of living in a fairy-tale world, must surely be right when he remarked: "During the last decade some Christian churches in Britain have been so opposed to Mrs Thatcher that many Christians now have a knee-jerk hostility towards every

government policy. Even stronger is the tide of anti-Americanism that runs in the world..." He might have added, too, a religious-moral snobbery towards anything in uniform, anything military. In other words, no project involving both the CIA and Mrs Thatcher could possibly be honourable or noble, so please pass the pen, we don't need to read the words. This is a classic *raison des clercs*.

Needless to say, it has nothing to do with Christianity, a religion whose ideals are pacifist but which lives in the real world where ideals are sometimes out of reach. Because of the human inclination for all power to corrupt, known in classical Christian teaching as original sin, big countries will swallow small countries, tyrants will suppress human rights, minorities will be persecuted, wars will break out, millions of innocent people will die, for ever and ever.

Realising that, and painfully aware of the failure of the League of Nations over Ethiopia and Manchuria, Churchill, Roosevelt and their colleagues devised the boldest remedy they could think of, a new world order. Never again would Hitler and his like be tolerated. Every nation was to be invited to pledge itself to observe certain minimum standards of civilised conduct, to abide by international law, to live in peace with its neighbour, to lend its military strength to enforce these rules if necessary, and to participate in the policy-making of a new United Nations Organisation. It was the very incarnation of the brotherhood of man.

Here was worth something dying for. And if it was to work, real people would have to die for it. Deliberate willingness to sacrifice one's life for others and for the highest good is known in Christianity as martyrdom, the ultimate moral act. "Greater love hath no man..."

Every noble dream has a nightmare attached, and the UN has had its share. At last, however, after more than 40 years of suspended animation, the real UN ideal lives again. A force of warriors has been assembled, whose moral dignity comes not from the fact that they are prepared to go into battle to kill, but that they are prepared to go into battle to be killed, for a greater moral purpose than their own survival.

Each must be praying that the bitter cup will pass him by, but they know it will not pass them all. They are entitled to know that the cause they might die for is the summit of human achievement so far, a vision of a lasting peace among the nations for the first time in history.

Meanwhile, the British religious elite, the religiosis, can only sneer that such delusions do not even warrant a serious and thoughtful answer.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

A remark once made to me by a battle-hardened district nurse in Derbyshire is lodged firmly in my mind. It was Christmas Day, and being the local MP, I was doing the rounds of the hospitals and institutions.

This is a depressing duty at Christmas: most of those fit enough to know who they are have been judged fit enough to spend the day with their families. As a result, those with whom the MP spends his time are, almost by definition, unlikely to know what an MP is, let alone appreciate his attentions. Still, I did it. The Member of Parliament for West Derbyshire had always done it.

Health service staff were obliged to accompany me. And it was while going the rounds with the district nurse that we stopped in a particularly hopeless geriatric ward. Creatures who were barely sentient gathered in their iron-caged beds. I murmured something sympathetic. The district nurse looked at me, sharply.

"Huh!" she grunted. "I blame the central heating. Before that, one good Derbyshire winter would have cut through this lot like a knife through butter." The media, I think, would not care for that sentiment. "The media" are, of course, deeply caring, socially responsible, and "passionately concerned about the environment". The "caring" message is that the elderly must be kept by public funds at guaranteed room-temperatures throughout the winter, and that the central heating of every citizen's household or office, and every public institution, is a fundamental human right, to be provided — if necessary — at the Exchequer's expense.

The "socially responsible" element chips in to add (for instance) that every yard of every street and motorway should be artificially lit all night; that empty buses and trains should proceed in all directions at all hours on the offchance that someone might need them; and that scores over salmonella and so on teach us prudently to regard the domestic refrigerator as a place for food to pause briefly during its passage from the super-

market shelf to the dustbin. But that is only half of the conventional wisdom. The "environmentally concerned" half has a different message. It says we must husband our planet's resources. We must not waste food. We must save our forests, conserve our fossil reserves, cut down our carbon dioxide emissions and remove the aluminium tabs from cans, for recycling.

I sense a tension between these two halves of what a forward-thinking person believes. If there is a single policy most likely to contribute to the plunder of common resources, it is the provision — to all, as of right, and "free at the point of use" — of a generous guaranteed measure of food, warmth, clothing and light.

For what are the Earth's two greatest problems, if not overpopulation and the wasteful depletion of finite resources?

Yet nothing uses up resources faster than the measures we take to keep ourselves safe, clean and warm. By insisting that not just our bodies, but every cubic yard of every room — occupied or not — of the houses we live in is heated day and night; by taking hot baths and showers almost obsessively, discharging soap, detergent and disinfectant on a scale previously undreamed of; by flushing gallons of expensive purified water down the loo every time we urinate; by insisting that we put not a foot out of doors after dark except in conditions of intense artificial illumination; by holding it a duty to prolong our own lives beyond their natural limits; and by demanding these things not only for ourselves, but for the poor in the rich countries, and, finally, the poor in the poor countries too, we must surely be on course to wreck the globe before the century is out.

If people were colder, dirtier and hungrier, then more would die and those who lived would take less of a toll on global resources. Two problems would be solved at once. The greens say that economic growth is the enemy of our planet. But one can go further. The environmental case for reactionary social policy seems to me to be overwhelming.

Ian McIntyre on The Listener's noble aspirations, and the reason for its death

# Cultural uplift that declined and fell

Early in 1929 Sir John Reith, the first director general of the BBC, wrote in his diary of the controversial plan to launch *The Listener*: "Apparently every newspaper in the country is trying to prevent our publishing it." He would not be worried, though, "if only the damn silly governors would keep out of it".

The governors obliged, and Reith arranged matters as he quite often contrived to do. Within ten years, the new weekly was selling 50,000 copies. It peaked in 1949 at 151,350. By this week, when the life-support system was finally turned off, the circulation had sunk well below the 27,000 it achieved in its first year of publication.

*The Listener* was a proving exception to the rule that nothing is ever achieved by a committee. The committee in question had been set up under Sir Henry Madow, a distinguished musician and educationist, with the Fabian historian G.D.H. Cole among its members. The recommendations of its report, *New Ventures in Broadcasting*, published in 1928, included the establishment of a weekly magazine that would publish broadcast talks and generally promote the BBC's adult education work.

By that autumn, a young Oxford-educated pacifist called Richard Lambert had been appointed editor and dummies were in preparation. (Lambert was a man of spirit. When he applied for an educational appointment with the BBC two years earlier, Reith asked him: "Do you accept the fundamental teachings of Jesus Christ?" Lambert paused briefly, then answered in the negative.)

It was the second dummy that lit the blue paper because it showed that the BBC proposed to publish not just the verbatim text of talks, but also pictures, book reviews and articles on broadcast music. From the earliest days, the newspaper proprietors had believed that radio would damage their advertising revenue. They had already been caught napping by *Radio Times*, which had begun to yield a sizeable revenue. This looked like more of the same.

"It is without doubt a profit-making proposition," complained the *Financial News*. "The project is thoroughly objectionable," said the *New Statesman*. Stanley Baldwin received a deputation at Number Ten. A formula was then agreed: the paper would not contain more than 10 per cent of original material not related to broadcasting, a cunningly elastic form of words that left the editor much scope for ingenuity. The BBC also said it did not intend to accept for *The Listener* more advertisements than were necessary, with its other revenue, to cover its total cost.

This was a tremendous liberation for the new magazine, because it effectively established the primacy of the editor over the advertisement director. External opposition gave way to internal friction, notably with the talks department, which feared that its broadcasts would forget the coaching they had been given in how to sound colloquial and revert to a "literary" style.

The paper quickly threw off any idea that its editorial brief was narrowly educational and established itself in Lambert's phrase, as "a vehicle of general culture". With people of the calibre of the young Janet Adam Smith as literary editor, a rigorous standard of reviewing was established. There was a lot of coaxing to be done. Desmond MacCarthy had to be persuaded that his famous talks

on books would translate successfully into print; various BBC penpals had to be reassured that Sir Herbert Read did not really favour "Bolshevism" in art; some of Reith's fellow members of the Athenaeum had to be convinced that not all contemporary fiction was "unwholesome".

Within a year of its launch, the list of contributors included Beatrice Webb ("Taking the Strain off Parliament"), Solly Zuckerman ("Monkeys and Men") and Bronislaw Malinowski ("Race and Labour"). Via Sackville-West was reviewing new novels and her husband, Harold Nicholson, was expatiating on "People and Things". The paper developed a reputation for the quality of its illustrations — it was in *The Listener* that many people first encountered Gwen Raverat's work — and until the coming of *Picture Post* it could boast to be the best-illustrated threepenny magazine in the country.

So who killed this cock-robin of the weeklies? Television, with its little eye? Far too facile a correlation. The fact is that the paper had been dying in slow motion for a long time. It went through a phase some years ago of pretending that

it wasn't really *The Listener* at all but a cross between *The Spectator* and *The New Statesman*. It became afflicted with various forms of fashionability. It had ceased to radiate editorial purpose and assurance.

It had also begun, perhaps inevitably, to reflect some of the uncertainties and anxieties of the powerful public corporation which had brought it into being. The paper which had been blessed in its cradle with exemption from the profit motive was thrust into the market place and told that it ought to try and wash its face like any other self-respecting little milch cow.

The paper had flourished in the broad acres of public-service broadcasting. The soil in those fields was now too thin to sustain it. There was one last despairing throw — the bizarre notion that Independent Television could be drawn in as an elderly stepfather and that *The Listener* could somehow be transformed into a magazine serving the "broadcasting industry" as a whole.

There's an old rhyme that fix Rattle his bones over the stones; He's only a pauper whom nobody owns!

# Behind the clenched fists, a movement in disarray

R.W. Johnson reports on the tensions within the ANC that the current conference will find hard to disguise



Oliver Tambo returns home after 30 years' exile, to be faced by a need for clear leadership

equality between the whites, Africans, Indians and coloureds within its ranks, but tensions naturally exist, as they also sometimes do on African tribal lines.

There are divisions, too, between exiles and those who stayed at home — particularly since the exiles often tend to assume not only that they will walk into leadership positions but that they cannot be expected to accept the full rigours of township life. Exiles who have had children at school in England are, for example, naturally unwilling to put them into the violent and deprived world of township schools. But any demand for special privileges is resisted.

There is tension, too, between the quasi-masonic elite of former Robben Island prisoners who constitute much of the leadership and those who accuse it of a "top-down" leadership style. In particular, the failure to consult the wider movement before taking the cardinal decision to suspend the armed struggle is bitterly resented. There is, moreover, a general loss of confidence in the ANC's organisational capability. It is not just that letters and telephone calls go unanswered and that communication with branches and regions is abysmally poor; the movement has a habit of setting up enormously complicated structures without having either the will or the ability to make them work.

The result is a hubbub of contradictory voices, a membership drive becalmed at 200,000 members (far short of the one million target), and deep dissatisfaction with the state of the supposed tripartite alliance between the ANC, the trade unions and the Communist party. The Congress of South African Trade Unions — which has by far the most impressive organisation, a million members and has borne the brunt of the struggle — feels that it is effectively being ignored

and notes that the South African Communist party has a far more privileged position. Indeed, many believe that Nelson Mandela has been encouraged to go off on international jaunts while the Communists homecomb the ANC organisation from within.

But more important is the feeling that the ANC has lost its sense of direction. Why, many ask, are not all the exiles back by now? Why, if the ANC has carried out a census of exiles, is it unable to tell the government how many there are? Why are so many political prisoners still in detention? The government has been pressing the ANC to get on with constitutional negotiations, and it is the ANC that has asked for delay — in order to hold this conference whose status has now been downgraded anyway. Meanwhile, President de Klerk goes happily ahead dismantling apartheid, but always on his own initiative, never as a result of concessions wrung from him by

the ANC. So what does the movement get out of negotiations? Are its negotiators just dupes? The questions pile up.

In fact, many within the ANC leadership seem, as a result of the negotiating process, to have arrived at an altogether more sensitive appreciation of practical realities than most give them credit for. Their greatest failing has been a reluctance to spell out these realities to their followers. The big question is whether they take advantage of this opportunity to do so now.

In particular the leadership must give a clear lead on two issues, sanctions and township violence. Mr. Tambo's call yesterday for the ANC to review its stand on sanctions must be warmly welcomed, for it has become a pressing necessity to call them off and to do everything possible to accelerate economic growth in South Africa. Without that, there can be no hope of meeting the crisis of rising expectations, and everybody — the ANC as much as de Klerk — will fail.

Secondly, the ANC must move seriously to deal with the continuing civil war in the townships. It is not enough to denounce Chief Buthelesi and the security forces and to put all the trouble down to some ghostly "hidden hand". Black people are dying by the hundred. No amount of "white manipulation" could create such carnage if there were not deep divisions within the black community. The ANC cannot just throw up its hands, blame everybody else for the violence, and take no responsibility either for what is happening or for finding a peaceful solution.

The conference will resound with rhetoric and radical posturing, that much is understandable and inevitable. And the ANC leadership, leaders some sympathy. It is under great pressure from all sides, and the only ones to gain from a collapse of ANC credibility would be racial extremists on right and left.

But there have been enough laps of honour now, enough playing to the township gallery. The conference must offer more than populist rhetoric or it will have failed.

The author is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

## Fresh light on the fourth B

Fourteen years after the death of Benjamin Britten, a two-volume selection of his letters and diaries is to be published in May, giving scholars an insight into his view of world events, the creative process behind such works as *Peter Grimes* and much about his private life.

The volumes, covering the period from 1923 to 1945, have been edited by Donald Mitchell, the leading Britten scholar, and Philip Reed, staff musicologist at the Britten-Pears Library at Aldeburgh. They have spent five years assembling Britten's letters and have included more than 500 for publication. Volume one opens with a letter from Britten at the age of ten to his domineering mother, Edith, who was determined from the start that he would be a great composer.

"He was to be the fourth B after Bach, Beethoven and Brahms," says Reed. "She regulated his early life, even picking his best friend in his teens and deciding how long they should spend together... She was a most powerful influence and he adored her."

Mrs Britten was unaware of his homosexuality, and it was only after her death in 1937, when Britten was 23, that he was released from her influence "and became sexually aware". After his mother's death, W.H. Auden was the most dominant influence on Britten. "He opened many doors for Britten. He had accepted that the final bust-up came when Auden made

some comments about *Gloriana*, but we found that as late as 1953 Auden gave a lecture at Aldeburgh. That was ten years after the split."

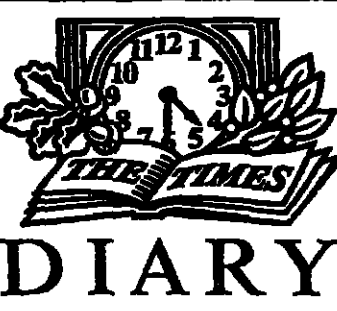
Another influential figure was the composer Frank Bridge. All 200 known letters from Bridge to Britten survive, but none of the replies. All were destroyed after the death of Bridge's wife in the early 1960s.

The first two volumes, to be followed by a further two, also chronicle Britten's meeting with Peter Pears, who was to be his musical and personal partner for the rest of his life.

John Major will not, after all, be donning his festive paper hat on Christmas Day at home in Huntingdon. For this occasion, at least, he will follow the example of his predecessor and spend the holiday at Chequers. Along with his wife Norma and their two children, plus, no doubt, countless red baxes, he will arrive on Christmas Eve and remain until Boxing Day. He will also see in the New Year at Chequers. No word yet on guest lists. Watch this space.

## Springing eternal

The discovery of a well in the British embassy compound in Kuwait, which may well have saved several lives while the building was under siege, turns out to have been a miraculous event indeed. Until the Iraqi invasion the site of the well was a consecrated grave, three feet deep, which was to have been the final resting place of one of Kuwait's most distinguished British expatriates, Mrs Violet Dixon.



An expert on herbs and spices, Mrs Dixon, who is 94, had lived in Kuwait for 40 years. She adopted Arab ways and dress, but insisted that she be buried on British soil. When her health began to fail last year, the ambassador, Michael Weston, ordered a grave to be prepared in the embassy's two-acre compound. During the siege, when a subterranean water supply became essential, workmen used the grave as a starting point — and there the water was.

Mrs Dixon is now back in England, having returned with other hostages this week. But she is optimistic that she will one day be able to return to her chosen final resting place, however watery it may now be.

## Homeward bound

Robert Runcie will not be retiring completely when he stands down as Archbishop of Canterbury in April. He is to be offered an honorary position as an assistant bishop of St Albans; given that he was bishop there for ten years before going to Lambeth Palace, it repre-

sents a home-coming he will almost certainly accept.

Dr Runcie will be given the stall of Abbot Eborac, or Eborac, the last, Saxons abbot, famous in church history for his role in settling a clerical dispute between Canterbury and York in 1072.

Meanwhile, the archbishop-elect, George Carey, is said to be pondering a contemporary theological point: the role of divine providence, or lack of it, in Arsenal's worst home defeat for nearly 70 years — 6-2 against Manchester United last month. After the match, Carey compared notes in the hospitality box with another Gunners' devotee, Dr Jonathan Sacks, the chief rabbi-elect, whom he was meeting for the first time. Dr Sacks says: "We are trying to work out the implications. Does the result mean our prayers were not heard, that the players were relying on us, or that God is a Manchester United fan?"

## Last ditch

The effeminate poll-tax message implied by Michael Heseltine's appointment as environment secretary does not seem to have got through to Scotland. Among those working for Allan Stewart, now a junior minister at the Scottish Office whose responsibilities include the poll tax, is Douglas Mason, one of Scotland's leading environmentalists. He wrote the 1985 pamphlet *Revising the Rating System*, published by the Adam Smith Institute, that became the blueprint for the government's community charge legislation. And it is not as though Mason is a loyal, paid-up Tory: he resigned



Roy Miles, the Mayfair dealer specialising in Soviet art, is plotting to help alleviate the Soviet food shortage. His *Bratstvo Street gallery* will remain open tomorrow to accept food parcels and other gifts for Tuesday's airlift. "Lord Heseltine has contributed 100,000 hypodermic needles," says Miles. "I feel this is an act of friendship at Christmas time."

كتاب من الأصل



**1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000**

No doubt it would be inconvenient for the West if Mr Gorbachev were to fall before the Gulf conflict has been resolved. That does not alter the fact that this attempt to manipulate the internal struggle in Mr Gorbachev's favour is unlikely to succeed. The imponderables are too great; popular opposition to the course on which the Soviet President seems to have embarked will be formidable.

Previous home secretaries have put most of their faith in the new building programme with some hope of a reduction in prison numbers as the icing on the cake. Brixton should be one of the first to be pulled down, and its fate should not depend on the sentencing proposals in the Criminal Justice bill bearing fruit in a falling prison population. The bill, which has lost some of its radicalism in preparation, is unlikely to deliver as much as the Home Office at first expected. In any case, these are old initiatives. Mr Baker is looking for something fresh. He should ask Judge Tumm.

banks and omits, such as computers, or in its household stores, where only Indesit and Zanussi appear to be for sale. Statistics bear this impression out. Italy does less trade with the rest of Europe than any community country apart from Spain. Last year its imports from the rest of Europe amounted to only 9½ per cent of gross domestic product, compared with 12½ per cent in Britain and West Germany and 14 per cent in the United States. Italy's steel and

Members of Parliament should therefore be reminded that even if they continue to believe that some crimes warrant such punishment or that such punishment would act as a deterrent, their vote carries the potential for innocent persons to be murdered by the state.

Yours sincerely,  
**DAVID BULL**, Director,  
Amnesty International  
(British section),  
99-119 Rosebery Avenue, ECI,  
December 12.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD ARMITAGE,  
11 Cambridge Road,  
Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Yours faithfully,  
P. C. MAXLOW-TOMLINSON,  
Stones (Solicitors),  
Northernhay Place,  
Exeter, Devon.  
December 5.

December 12

3. Perhaps, at the blow of a whistle, we could all stand still for two minutes, so that the lucky few with sight of an entire canvas could contemplate it without a

5. Schoolgirls should be encouraged to keep their sketch-pads until later, and conversationalists

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5846.

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD GRIERSON,  
16 Connaught Place, W2.  
December 14.

Academy's own magazine, one reads: "The paintings were hung rather high, at 65 inches, to allow the ensemble to be seen above the heads of the crowd". In Chicago, one further reads: "Again the

**Yours faithfully,**  
**STEVE MASLEN,**  
22 Fitzwarren Gardens, N12.  
December 9.

that word on its back door.  
Yours faithfully,  
B. J. WHYATT,  
3 Rotton Row,  
Wiveliscombe, Somerset.

December 11.  
From Mr Gerald A. Early  
Sir, Further to my letter which you  
published on July 9, suggesting  
that a committee of business

16) wisely planned to renew his central heating, even though he doubted the validity of my theory. Whatever their views, I hope your readers have enjoyed seeing the best show of red holly berries

GERALD A. EARLY,  
30 Park Lane East, Reigate, Surrey.  
December 9.













Any questions: Alison Kite (right) and colleague, Pat Campbell-Hope

## And your starter for ten pints ...

Many pubs are discovering that pulling in the punters can be a trivial pursuit

At exactly 8.30 the other evening, in the panelled back bar of a pub in Clerkenwell, north London, David Cracknell and three friends were asked to name the national character created by John Arbuthnot in 1712. Instantly, all four pencils scribbled the same name ... John Bull. The Crown Tavern quiz team had done it again.

All over Britain, one of the most popular winter sports, the pub quiz, is well under way. Some pub customers find all the intellectual stimulation they require in contemplating life as seen through the bottom of a pint glass. Quiz fans find fulfilment in naming the first woman to run a mile in under five minutes or the only bird to have nostrils at the tip of its beak — Diane Leather and the kiwi.

At least 100,000 people are thought to participate in these contests which, for the most part, take place in local pubs with a strong community feeling. Last winter, the Crown team graduated from victory in their local Islington league in north London to win a national competition sponsored by Guinness which involved 800 pubs. The team members — Mr Cracknell, Michael Beswick, Ian Hutchings and Veronica Schwarz — are young economists and statisticians with an impressive collection of master's degrees, but, in this case, Mr Cracknell's ability to name the king or queen of England in any year since 1066 is probably of more immediate relevance.

Quiz games, they insist, have nothing to do with intellectual prowess. "All you need is an interest in trivia and a good memory," Mr Hutchings says. In some places, the game is still an informal knockout between a handful of teams from local pubs with questions assembled by a retired teacher with a set of out-of-

date encyclopaedias. Increasingly, however, competitions are serious affairs, organised into leagues by the big breweries, and there is a sizeable industry supplying the insatiable appetite for questions. Burns and Porter, Britain's biggest quiz organisation, runs 600 leagues for 16 breweries, supplying questions for 6,000 teams. After 14 years in the business, the company has just celebrated its two millionth quiz night. Its computer has a database of 126,000 pairs of questions and answers. Although the company employs researchers to compile questions as well as using a variety of experts, keeping a steady flow of new questions is a problem.

"There are only so many questions the ordinary man in the street can answer," says Alison Kite, Burns and Porter's sales manager. "Increasingly we have to turn to new information — current events, new films, new music."

The quiz has been part of pub life for many years. Tedley's, the Leeds brewery, has run a league for 22 years. At first, it found that marketing men tended to sneer at it, until they saw the potential. "It raises a lot of interest," the brewery spokesman says. "It sells a hell of a lot of ale, too."

Quiz men play for glory, not for gain. The prizes are usually restricted to a trophy for the pub, and perhaps a sweatshirt. In most pubs, there is a quiet pride in having a successful quiz team. At the Railway at Marsden, near Huddersfield, the trophy for the current Tedley champions is in pride of place in the display cabinet. Paul Taylor, the landlord, is enthusiastic about pub games in general, but the quiz is slightly different. "I don't mean to sound snobbish," he says, "but it enables the more intellectual type of person to enjoy himself in the pub, too."

COLIN DUNNE

# Rumbling back down the line

Trams are on the way back in a bid to speed town travel, Marcus Binney says

The government is to spend £1.5 billion on a railway tunnel linking Paddington and Liverpool Street stations. This is a heartening investment in public transport, but how much cheaper it would be to run trams along Oxford Street.

London's tramlines were torn up in the early Fifties because they were considered outdated, inefficient and an impediment to the growing volume of motor traffic. Now, as cars clog cities all over Europe, trams are seen as the alternative public transport system of the future.

About 40 British towns and cities, including Birmingham, Nottingham and Sheffield, are looking at the possibilities of trams. Manchester has started laying down tracks. Croydon is drawing up proposals with London Transport and British Rail.

Hampshire county council has the most adventurous proposal: a tramway linking Gosport and Portsmouth, under the harbour. Nantes, in western France, has one of the newest systems. Its tramways, abandoned in 1958, returned in 1985 with a new track and 22 stops. Thanks to automation and a 50 per cent government grant towards infrastructure, the Nantes trams make a profit.

Basle and Zurich in Switzerland have long-established tram networks. Basle has nearly 40 miles of line and 300 vehicles.

The fundamental advantage of trams over buses is that they can be given priority over other road users, who inevitably ease into, and often park in, bus lanes. In Basle, trams have exclusive use of many streets in the city centre.

One of the weaknesses of bus lanes in London is that cars wishing to turn left at junctions are allowed into the bus lane and can block it. Trams, by contrast, are usually given their own lane at junctions with separate, priority



Food farewell: crowds flocked to see the last tram run in central London in 1952. The system was abandoned for its "outmoded inefficiency"

signalling. With a clear path ensured, and speedy acceleration, trams can keep to timetables.

Automatic ticket machines ensure there is no delay caused by passengers buying tickets or showing passes, as happens on driver-only buses. As most trams consist of two carriages (some have three), each with two or three doors, large numbers of passengers can board and alight in a short time.

While new Underground stations involve considerable expenditure, tram stops cost little. And people who hesitate to use the Underground at night, for safety reasons, are often happier using transport at street level.

Trams, being electrically driven, produce no fumes and so reduce pollution in city streets.

Most tram systems have a good safety record, even in pedestrian areas where people might not be expecting fast-moving vehicles. This is partly because trams are a warning to pedestrians and show exactly where the vehicles will pass, and partly because of the tram's distinctive rumble.

One of Europe's most modern systems opened in Grenoble in 1987. A new five-mile track with 23 vehicles carries 65,000 people a day, with trams running at four-minute intervals at peak times. The revolutionary new vehicles,

looking something like submarines, are the product of a partnership between the French government and industry. The main innovation is that the floors of the trams are almost at pavement level, so that pushchairs and even wheelchairs can be manoeuvred in with ease. A shallow ramp slides out at the press of a button to allow automatic wheelchairs to drive in. This has been achieved by putting most of the electrical works in the roof.

Street cables and supports are lighter and less obtrusive than in the past. In the city centre, the wires are suspended from neighbouring buildings. All the new

passenger shelters have been provided by an agency in return for use of the advertising space.

The main resistance to trams comes from motorists concerned that the trams will limit road space and slow down traffic. But the cities which are introducing trams have decided it makes sense to reduce motor traffic.

Weighing up the merits of different transport systems for London could take years. Why not simply experiment with a single tramline, as in Nantes or Grenoble, perhaps in an area ill-served by London's Underground network, such as parts of Fulham, Chelsea and the South Bank?

Help: Mark Peterson, baker

## There is nothing like a Danish

TAKING into consideration the cost of renting premises in central London, the idea of opening a bakery within two minutes walk of Harrods might seem like retail madness. But the Beverly Hills Bakery, the brainchild of Mark Peterson, is no ordinary cake shop. Mr Peterson, aged 25, intends to make the sending of a gift of fresh cakes anywhere in Britain a workable alternative to flowers or chocolates.

The small shop opens at 8am six days a week. Mr Peterson says orders received before 10am will be delivered anywhere in London the same day and anywhere in the rest of Britain the following day. London deliveries arrive packed in a basket with a gingham napkin, and out of town orders in a flowered tin. No cake is sold or dispatched which has not been baked that day.

"I'd always thought about open-

ing a bakery, even when I was seven or eight years old," says Mr Peterson, who first came to Britain, from Los Angeles, when he was 17. A year later, after completing his schooling, he returned to college in Pennsylvania, and later took a degree at Durham University. After a year spent teaching English in Japan he decided to set up his own business. He researched his project carefully.

Mr Peterson's first plan was to open a shop in Los Angeles, selling Danish pastries. As his mother is Danish and he speaks the language, he went to Copenhagen and arranged an apprenticeship at the famous Arken bakery.

Six months later, he felt he knew just about everything about the production of these pastries and left for Los Angeles. "I needed sales and marketing experience," he says. "I'd never worked behind a counter or used a cash till." A year working for a bakery in Santa Monica and Beverly Hills taught him to cook American cakes, but also put paid to his plans to open a Danish pastry shop. Why? The secret of Danish pastries lies in the rolling of the dough, which demands vast work surfaces and a very large (and expensive) kitchen. As a result, Mr Peterson abandoned his plans for Los Angeles and flew to London. He arrived on April 1 this year and within two weeks had found a shop.

The shop, which opened on November 30, will double as a coffee bar. The style of the cakes is

American — muffins, brownies and cookies — as well as Christmas cakes, pies and cheesecake. Special orders are welcomed. The ingredients are all fresh, free from additives and preservatives. There are also sugar-free and low calorie cakes.

PRICES start at 35p for a fresh muffin in the shop, up to £14, including delivery within London, for a basket of 16 small cakes and, out of London by post, £23 for a tin containing 18 pieces. Christmas cakes weighing 1½lb cost £12. Personal shoppers can taste the cakes before they order.

Initially, the cash to start the business came mostly from a settlement Mr Peterson received after contracting particularly virulent food poisoning while he was in Pennsylvania. It was an experience which has understandably left him very concerned about the quality and freshness of food.

GERALDINE RANSON

● Beverly Hills Bakery & Gift Basket, 225A Brompton Road, London, SW3 2EJ (071-584 4401).

### Events in town

#### THIS WEEKEND

● International concert To celebrate United Nations Human Rights Day, 14 groups, including Ashanti drummers, the Wells Cathedral School and Ian Hall Singers, in a concert with a Christmas flavour.

St Pancras Church, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1. Tomorrow 7.30pm (071-630 6718).

● Toy delight: Exhibition of dolls, dolls houses, cars, trains, soldiers, puzzles and teddy bears, plus craft toys for sale. Victorian Toy Theatre performance at 2pm. Townier Art Gallery and Local History Museum, Eastbourne, Sussex (0323 411689). Today until Feb 17. Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Closed Dec 25, 26 and Jan 1.

● James Galloway's Christmas collection and teddy bears concert: Today, the flautist with choir and orchestra in a carol concert with audience participation. Tomorrow, 5pm, children's teddy bear concert. Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Today 5.30pm and 8pm, £10.50-£22.50. Tomorrow £7.50 (£6.50 if carrying a bear).

● SOS Christmas concert: In aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics with Dame Vera Lynn, Leslie Crowther and Bob Monkhouse among the artists. Tomorrow, at 3.15pm, the Ernest Read family carol concert. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1. Today, 4pm and 7.30pm, melodeas £20-£21.1. Tomorrow, £11. Box office 071-928 8800.

● Bristol Christmas carnival: Christmas market from noon to 9pm. The Bristol Bach Choir at 6.30pm, decorated boat procession 7pm, jazz band and fireworks 8.30pm. Bristol City Docks, today, free.

● Durham Cathedral concert: Carol service in aid of the mentally handicapped today 2.30pm. Durham Cathedral.

● Dame Judi and Jeffrey Dench: A Feast of Words and Music, including "Winter" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Money raised will pay for 5,000 inner-city Christmas Day meals. St James's, Piccadilly, tomorrow. Tickets £11, evening. Bookings 071-379 4444.

#### NEXT WEEK

● Edinburgh hospitals carols: Massed choirs of the city's hospitals. Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031-228 1155). Wed 7.30pm, £2 to £7.

● St Paul's carols: For congregation and choir, with the City of London Sinfonia. St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4. Thurs, 6.30pm, free.

JUDY FROSHAUG

**The ultimate free supplement:**  
**MEN — a user's guide**  
(you'll be mad if you miss it)



New Woman. You can't be one without it.



Say it with muffins, American-style: Mark Peterson and goodies galore

## One moment everything's normal and the ne

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## Stocking up with fillers

Mini-gifts are the most fun to buy and make a good test of ingenuity for adults

ONE of the enduring pleasures of Christmas is the chance to choose stocking fillers for children. One of the greatest tests of ingenuity is to pick imaginative mini-gifts to fill an adult sock.

Londoners can rely on Neal Street East to come up with instant solutions. Call the shop by 6pm on December 21 and the staff will gather 18 small gifts for girls or boys which must be collected no later than 4pm on Christmas Eve. The stockings are not included. The children's selection costs £12.50 and includes, for example, an inflatable parrot, paper snake on stick, and Mr Potato Head game for boys; three-in-one doll, silk brocade purse and wooden dancing animal for girls. But your own selection could include a parrot mobile (£1.95), fortune-telling fish (5p), folding scissors in a box (60p), furry jumping spider (£1.40), book of rub-off mini tattoos (5p) or plastic fangs (6p).

Neal Street East will also put together a selection for adults' stockings. Ten items cost £10.75 and include a wooden shaving brush, clockwork bath toy, fish penknife and book of Chinese wisdom for men; or a paper waller, water flowers, Chinese soap and chopsticks for women.

● **Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, London WC2 (071-240 0135).** A good source of jolly stocking fillers for children and adults is Crackers. As well as the more traditional items such as brightly coloured Disney snow globes (£4.95), there are contemporary ideas like the Cellulose 2 toy phone (£13.75), which rings like a real mobile telephone, personal



Victorian mask at the Museum Store in Covent Garden

organisers with wipe-clean covers (£14.95), bath mousse (£1.95), which can be modelled and then dissolved, and Turtle toothpaste (99p).

For adults there are a teeny Power Tie (£3.99), battery operated tiger paw massager (£5.99), jockey Toilet Noses (£3.99), nose-shaped chocolate filled with caramel; bottle stoppers with duck heads (£2.99 for four); and Phoney Excuses (£19.99), which creates noises - door bells, a secretary's voice, static on the line - to play when a phone conversation needs to end swiftly.

● **Crackers are at Whiteleys of Bayswater, Queensway, London W2 (071-243 1601) and 62 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13 (081-741 1254).**

# Gift-wrapped and monogrammed

Adding the personal touch can make all the difference to even the most ordinary of gifts; Nicole Swengley gives us the low-down on how to organise a highly individual Christmas



New light: an illuminated snowstorm featuring Santa (£18.99) at Frog Hollow, London W8, one of a range of snowstorms from £1.50 to £24.99

### CHRISTMAS LISTS

● **Museum Store, 37 The Market, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 5700).** Mon-Sat 10.30am-6.30pm (Thurs and Fri to 7.30pm); Sun 11am-5pm. The gifts come from museum and gallery shops around the world and range in price from 50p to £300. Unusual presents for men include clay pipes, 25.95; Charles Farnie Macintosh-style silver cufflinks, £24.95; and the pin, £24.95. For women there are fans from the Paris Opera House, £12.95; jewellery, £7.95-£28.95, made from original Fifties American bottle caps. For children there are fossil sets, £12.99 from the Natural History Museum.

● **Other shops which hold individual Christmas lists:** Perfect Glass (orders over £50 delivered free in London); Joanne Wood (free gift wrap service; gifts must be collected); Collier Campbell (gifts must be collected); Oggetti (free gift wrap, but gifts must be collected); Thomas Goode (free gift wrapping; some free delivery).

### OWN SELECTIONS

● **Hobbs of Mayfair, 28 South Audley Street, London W1 (071-400 1058).** Mon-Fri 9am-7pm; Sat 9am-5pm. Wooden Shaker-style boxes (£8.50-£19.95) filled with foil-covered chocolate slices, 5p each, covered chocolate, £2.95, peach cooking sauce, £3.25, cucumber and vinegar, £2.95, cinnamon sticks, £1.50 per bundle, whole redolents, 39.95 per 500g jar.

● **General Trading Company, 144 Strand, London WC2 (071-730 0411).** Mon-Sat 9am-6pm; Wed to 7pm. Dec 24 closes 4pm. Buy a basket or hamper from £25 (unfilled) and connect your own theme. A "report" basket for men could include cricket bat shaped hip flask, £14.95, tin of Fishing tea, £2.65, book on yachting or tennis, £25; an "animal" basket might contain a cat-shaped chalk board, £5.15, Bridgewater tammy mug, £2.95, Scottie dog tapestry kit, £25.50.

● **Sellergates, 400 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-429 1234).** Mon-Fri 9.30am-6pm; Sat 9am-5pm; Dec 15 9.30am-6pm; Dec 17-21 9.30am-6pm; Dec 20 9am-6pm; Dec 22 9.30am-7pm; Dec 24 9am-4pm. Pick your own chocolate selection in a Sellergates presentation box, gift-wrapped free. Chocolates cost 28p per lb.

● **Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1254).** Mon-Fri 9.30am-6pm; Sat 9am-5pm. In the Bath House, 78 baskets (£4.95-£25) with Hobbs' herb sprays, 25.95, soaps wrapped in herbs, £2.50, coloured aprons from 75p. Fine vegetable-based soaps from 35p, bath pearls, 5p-20p, pot pourri, £3.95. Liberty boxes can be filled with Nolde's toilet chocolates £2.95 per 10; 25.25 per 10; £10.50 per 10.

Design-conscious stocking fillers for adults can be found at Maison. They include a chrome bendy pen (£27.95), Christmas tree-covered toothbrushes (£3.45) and a puzzle car whose parts can be detached and used as crayons (£3.95).

● **Maison, 917-919 Fulham Road, London SW6 (071-736 3121).**

Peppol Tree Trading has pocket handwarmers (£13.80), sparkly yo-yos (£5.80) and a wooden crocodile (£4.40). Nearby at Troika are colourful rubber braces (£26.95), lobster and duck floating bath plugs (£3.99 each), and

glassnost glasses (from £4.99), encircled by barbed wire.

● **Peppol Tree Trading, 291 New King's Road, London SW6 (071-736 9132); Troika, 62 New King's Road, SW6 (071-736 2401).**

The renowned chocolatiers, Charbonnel et Walker, takes the biscuit for this year's whitest stocking filler. Its chocolate bone (£3.95) is suitable for adults, children and pets.

● **Charbonnel et Walker, 1 The Royal Arcade, 28 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071-491 0939).**

### Changing face: York

## New faces for old facias

FOR years, traditional shopfronts have resembled an endangered species, soon to be remembered only on Christmas cards and placemats.

In town after town, chain stores and multiples have punched out the ground floors of historic buildings to make way for floor-to-ceiling plate glass and plastic facias.

Enter York's Stonegate and you are in a different world. Here is one of the finest runs of traditional shopfronts in England. Georgian, Regency and Victorian fronts are each tailored to the building above. Only when you look more closely is it apparent that much of this is a brilliant piece of plastic surgery on a street which has endured the architectural equivalent of a motorway pileup.

The Next shop, for example, is housed behind a variety of small paned wooden fronts, all painted a smart royal blue. A few years ago, this was a typical Sixties-style showroom with a 50ft long curtain glass wall set sharply back from the facade above.

What you see in York is the result of a 20-year campaign begun under the guidance of June Hargreaves, who is revered as one of the best conservation officers in any English town.

The crux of the campaign was to persuade shop owners to return to wood: painted softwoods, not stained hardwoods. First came the insistence on a stall riser - a paneled front on the bottom of the shop windows. This brings the base of the window up to table level, making it more interest-

A more difficult problem comes with lowering the top of the facia. Many had become the size of advertisement hoardings, pressing up against the sills of the first floor windows. Old bricks are needed to hide the scar.

York's planners have avoided any form of design guide. Their technique is to point owners and developers towards good examples, both old and new - and



Stonegate: streets ahead in shopfront design

encourage them to use these as models. Because illuminated facias and lettering are banned in streets such as Stonegate, the art of signwriting has been revived.

Some shops prefer the emphasis of individual, three-dimensional letters, but it is the painted names in roman typefaces that look the most interesting, particularly when

painted in gold. Those which want a distinctive logo can have it painted or engraved on glass and suspended inside the shop window.

Another virtue of traditional shopfronts is that they bring back colour.

York has gone a stage further in drawing attention to detail by the skilful use of gliding.

At Hawkstead Country Ware, beading on the fanlight and trellis windows is picked out in gold on green. Acanthus leaves on the corner are also edged in gold. Crabtree & Evelyn on St Helens Square is fitted with brass sills and skirtings, and there is bevelled glass in every windowpane.

Next door, Scarborough and Co has picked out the ropework collanates in alternating pale blue, white and gold, while the frieze above it is lightly marbled.

Dark blue stained glass has been introduced at the sides of the windows, with elaborate stars, like garter badges, engraved in the corners.

Yet, just as York's ancient streets are looking better than they have done in years, a new threat has arisen in the form of the uniform business rate.

The planners are concerned that there will be closures and renewed pressure for louder, brasher shopfronts.

Recently, Rochas, the natural beauty specialist, applied to replace an award-winning arched shopfront with an uncompromisingly modern style - a step that seems out of character for a "green shop".

MARCUS BINNEY

and bags with gold and white labels. Gift cards and gift-wrapping are free. Toiletries from the Frankincense & Myrrh range are £5-£45. Sweet-smelling burning sticks, soaps and colognes are further options, along with smaller accessories such as soap dishes, pumice stones or face flannels.

### PERSONALISED PRESENTS

● **Frog Hollow, 15 Victoria Grove, London W8 (071-861 5499).** Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm; Thurs 9am-7pm; Sun 11am-5.30pm. Drawing pad set, 29.95, has 50 named sheets, eight named notepads, five pens, a pattern creator and eraser, colour Toy Bag has hand-painted name and teddy motif.

£15.99. Best-seller is a Mason Pearson hairbrush, £14.95 and £19.95, with hand-painted name in a choice of flower garland or train design.

● **Monogrammed Linen Shop, 168 Walton Street, London SW3 (071-589 4033).** Also at Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (071-491 9995). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, in SW3, Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm, in W1. Thurs to 6pm. From £2.50 for a monogrammed linen cocktail napkin and from £14 for a monogrammed Irish linen guest towel. Linen "envelopes" from £19.50, shoe bags, £22.50.

● **Blewley & Boddie, 7 Blenheim Terrace, London W9 (071-328 7879 and 071-572 5705).** Mon-Sat 9.30am-7pm. Italian desk set can be initialised in script while you wait. Pencil rub, £12.50; letter knife, £15.50; photo frames, £17.95; desk tidy, £12.50; memo box with paper, £21; blotter, £29.95. Men's dressing table sets in rosewood: tray, £27.95; shoe trays, £4; scented candles, £13.80; decorative paper box, £4.75; scented wooden heart, £15.50.

● **Sellergates' Print-A-Gift service** is in the stationary department. While you wait, any flat leather surface can be embossed with initials in gold or silver. Minimum charge £3 for small items, £5 for larger ones.

● **General Trading Company** offers a glass engraving service from £5.50 per letter. A glass loving cup, with

four initials, costs £32.80. Leather items which can be embossed (minimum charge £13.95) include an address book and visitors' book, £22 each, and photo albums from £38.50.

● **Sleeping Company, 149 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-581 2059).** Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm; Wed to 7pm; Dec 17-21, 9.30am-7pm. Items, including travelling robes, towels, flannels, pillowcases, sheets and pyjamas, can be embroidered with initials. Monogramming starts at £5 for a 1in initial, £7.50 for 2in. Cotton quilted lock-washer bottle cover with bottle inside, £25; travel head-rest, £14.50.

● **Liberty** needs five to ten days to initial or monogram a dressing gown, bath mat, towel, sheets or pillowcases. Initials £1.50-£4.95, names or words of eight letters £5. Dressing gowns, £29-£110; guest towels from £2.50; pillowcases from £12.50; bath mats from £19.95; bath towels from £28.95; sheets start at £29 (single) and from £37 (double). In the stationary department, a voucher for free engraving is available with Cross ballpoint or fountain pens.

● **Perfect Glass, 5 Park Walk, London SW10 (071-351 5342).** Mon-Sat 10am-6pm; Wed to 6pm; Dec 24 closes 4pm. Also at Chelsea Farmers' Market, Sydney Street, London SW3 (071-376 8514). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 11am-6pm. Order by Dec 21 for engraving service. Upper-case initials

£5 each; numerals and lower-case letters, £1 each; signatures about £20. Suitable glassware for engraving includes the Regency range - wine cooler, £29.50; ice bucket, £18.75; vase, £19.75. There is also Japoint Irish hand-painted glass - jug, £18.75; tumbler, £14.75; goblet, £20.75; tankard, £16.70.

● **Crackers, 62 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13 (081-741 1254);** Whiteleys of Bayswater, Queensway, London W2 (071-243 1601). Barnes: Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm; Whiteleys: Mon-Sat 10am-8pm. Hand-painted gifts for children include framed "name" pictures, £19.95 and £24.95; Mason Pearson hairbrushes, £18.95 and £24.50; door knockers, £24.95; clock boxes, £13.95; red metallic lock-up boxes with key, £18.50. All can be hand-painted with a motif or name.

● **Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (071-499 2523).** Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm; Thurs 9.30am-7pm; Dec 24 closes all day. Solid silver and silver-plated gifts engraved from £12. Silver napkin rings from £57; silver mugs, £15; silver-plated whiskey flasks from £70; solid silver tankards, £285; cigarette boxes, £24; solid silver gallery trays from £140; pill boxes from £39.50; William Corynne tulip-shaped goblet, £300.

● **Troika, 62 New King's Road, London W8 (071-736 2401).** Mon-Fri 9am-7pm; Sat 10am-6pm. Engraving on request, approximately £2.50 for three initials: pewter desk accessories from £18.95; Christmas tree cutlifter in a silver-plated egg, £24.95; fountain and ballpoint writing sets in retro-style tin with sliding lid, £22.50; pewter hip flask from £15.95; business card cases in brass from £7.95, or silver from £9.95; hand-warmers, £11.95.

● **Harneda, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-736 2401).** Mon-Fri 9am-7pm; Sat 10am-6pm. Hand-engraving service is in the British Crystal department on the second floor. Up to three initials £10 on crystal; £7.50 on metal; signatures £20 on crystal and £15 on metal; monograms from £15 on crystal, £12.50 on metal; crosses from £25 on crystal, £20 on metal. Also embroidered initials from £2.15, motifs from £9.20.

● **Garrards, 112 Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 7020).** Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm; Sat 9am-5pm. Gold stamping service for leather items £45 for three initials, about £50 for crests or whole names. Leather key fobs from £28, men's wallets from £25. Personal organisers from £10. Silver items can be engraved at £18 for three initials or £1.50 per letter. Typical items for engraving include silver photo frames from £35, circular dish from £82, and a man's silver hairbrush, £180. Garrards also has a glass engraving service for decanters and glassware bought at the store.

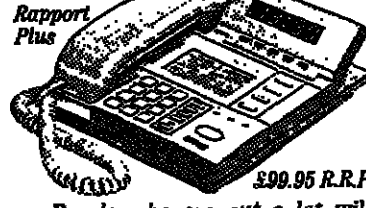
● **Joanne Wood** will hand-paint initials on china tooth mugs, £18 with one initial, matching soap dish, £18.50.

● **Maple & Webb, 108 Regent Street, London W1 (071-431 8267) and branches.** Mon-Sat 9.30am-6pm. Engraving in a variety of styles and typefaces at extra cost, including own handwriting, on items such as glass decanters from £78 square or from £76 round; two gift-boxed flutes, £41. Also silver ballpoint, £35; steel, gold plate or gun-metal ballpoint, £18, and silver toothpick with set gold blade, £42. Embossing on leather wallets from £43 in black calfskin, on tall boxes from £25 on three-drawer jewelry boxes, £134, and on beauty boxes, £435 (plus embossing charge). Estimates available by telephone and for personal shoppers.

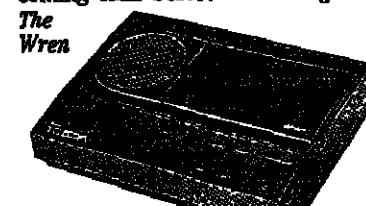
● **Tiffany** will engrave most silver items at three to four days' notice. From 25 per letter or initial. Tiny heart-shaped perfume flask, £45; swan bookmark, £20; luggage label with leather strap, £40; Swiss Army pocket knife, £35; whistle key-ring, £40.

"If it's got to be special," said Jake, "there's only one Christmas present that will answer."

And that's a British Telecom answering machine. The Rapport Plus, for example, is a sophisticated phone and answering machine in one. The Wren is British Telecom's latest and most compact answering machine.



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## Casting around for presents

Fishermen are easy to buy for at Christmas — they never seem to have enough gear

Anglers are simple: the fishing tackle industry knows how to catch them by the shoal, and choosing piscatorial presents is easy. There is no such thing as an angler who has got enough gear and every tackle shop is bursting with goodies which fishermen are convinced they need to improve performance.

The range is enormous: from floats and weights for a few pence (not lead weights, which can cause anglers to be handbagged by swan lovers) to reels and rods which can cost more than £1,000. Fishing lures travel through the water imitating a wounded or distressed fish, making them look like easy prey. Some are so brilliant that anglers' wives have been known to clip off the hooks and wear them as costume jewellery. Prices start at less than £1.

I asked a few top angling people what their Christmas choices would be. Terry Maxwell, a freelance tackle agent who confesses to owning 40 rods and 30 reels, wants a 3,500 GT Shimano aero bait runner — a fixed spool reel suitable for pike, salmon and light sea fishing at just under £80. More modestly, he would like an LX2000 fixed spool reel for all kinds of spinning and coarse fishing with 8lb or 12lb line at £18.95. Plus any amount of fishing line because reels have to be reloaded regularly, and also packets of new long-life Starman baits, blast-frozen or oil-suspended. Sprats, sand-eels, smelt, herring, mackerel and crab are the flavours, from 90p to £2.50.

Finally — and not for himself — Mr Maxwell points to the Daihatsu carbon-fibre rod (£1,200), which comes in ten sections and is 14 metres long.

Peter Drennan makes fishing tackle, but even he does not have enough of the stuff. Drennan International sponsors the English fly fishing team and specialises in

high-carbon steel, chemically etched needlepoint hooks. "Winter is the time for fly-tying," he says, "and made-up hooks are relatively expensive. I would go for a selection of trout hooks in boxes of 50 for £3. No top angler would use ready-made hooks."

After the presents are unwrapped, Mr Drennan and his daughter will be pike fishing in their own lake at Oxford, using the pike rod he designed, which sells for £96.

Pat Sullivan, who runs the Southwark Angling Centre in southeast London, is a practical man who had no hesitation in plunging at this time of year for a thermal suit. Prices range from £29 to £89.95. Short of that, he would accept a hook wallet at £3.50.

Winter fishing is not for everyone and there are enough books and videos to produce a breed of experts who need never venture outdoors. *The Angling Times* *Coarse Fishing Today* has to be a good buy at £1.60 and Mick Toomer, an England international sea angler, has made a video series under the *Clean River* label at £12.95.

Mr Toomer has a tackle box which needs a Geoff Capes to carry it any distance, but he would still like to add to it an Abu Ambassadeur 7000c Synco multiplier reel at £149.99. He also fancies a Mainstream offshore floatation suit to keep him warm and alive if ever he should fall in. His choice for a cheap present: stainless steel forceps for extracting hooks, from £3.50 to £6.50.

The Original Video Production Company has three cassettes on one species: *Carp Fever 1, 2 & 3* at £14.99 each, featuring carp ace Kevin Maddocks. The December edition of *Sea Angler* (£1.40) has a Christmas buying guide, as does *Trout Fisherman* (also £1.40).

JACK CROSSLEY



Angler's arms: but Mick Toomer then threw back this 21lb 12oz pike



Anti-television: John Abraham, the chairman of Askrigg parish council, says: "I am pleased the series is ending. We can't cope with the tourists."

## Vetting the Herriot hype

Television's *All Creatures Great and Small* has divided the locals in the small village where it is filmed. Peter Davenport reports

For the past 12 years the village of Askrigg, set high in the Yorkshire Dales, has lived a double life. In 87 episodes and two Christmas special editions of the BBC television programme *All Creatures Great and Small*, it has been transformed into the town of Darrowby, where James Herriot and Siegfried Farnon have their veterinary practice.

Each series has been watched by an estimated 11 million people in Britain and the BBC has exported the series to 42 countries, including the United States and Australia, where the viewers are some of the most devoted followers of this glimpse of English rural life in the immediate pre and post-war years.

At times fiction has overtaken fact. The solid, stone house, fronted by black wrought iron railings next to the newsgate on the main street, is used as Skeldale House, the vets' home and surgery. It was really called Cringley House but, when it became an old people's home ten years ago, the name was changed to the one popularised by television.

"People queue to be photographed outside the house," says Ann Hawkins, secretary to the committee which runs the home. "They even take photographs of their dogs standing outside, as if they were waiting patients. Some of them peer through the door, expecting to see the vets, and others wander into the kitchens looking for the surgery."

There are benefits, however. A notice pinned to a chest of drawers inside the white-painted door

offers Herriot marmalade, notes and photographs of the series stars, the proceeds going towards providing little extras for the home's residents.

In the shop next door, Kathleen Harrington, its manageress, has to open early when filming is underway so that modern items, such as "Gazza" T-shirts or Herriot calendars, can be removed from the shelves.

Across the road, the Kings Arms, a former coaching inn that doubles as *The Drovers Arms* in the series, proclaims itself as "The Herriot Pub" on a brass plate over the door. Ray and Liz Hopwood, who bought the inn seven years ago, will start work on extensive alterations in the new year to provide extra bedrooms for a growing number of guests.

They acknowledge the impact of Herriot lore on their business, although they sometimes fail to understand the hold it has on their visitors. "One American couple returned to the hotel to take a photograph of the table at which they had been dining which was later used for a scene in the programme," Mrs Hopwood says. The popularity of the series and

the worldwide success of the Herriot books have played a significant part in boosting tourism in the Dales in general and Askrigg in particular. It is estimated that about 8.5 million visitors trek to the Dales National Park each year, although Richard Harvey, the park officer, says the real number could be twice that.

There have been financial benefits, but also worrying drawbacks. The developing tourist industry has provided some much-needed jobs and made a valuable contribution to the local economy at a time when upland farming is increasingly difficult.

But the sheer pressure of numbers and the spread of facilities to cater for this growing market has led Mr Harvey to list Askrigg as one of 12 areas in the Dales which had been "seriously harmed" by burgeoning tourism, much of it linked blatantly to Herriot themes.

The increasing popularity of Askrigg as a place to live, either to retire to or commute from, has led to many properties becoming second or weekend homes, pushing prices beyond the pockets of young couples on local wages.

On Christmas Eve, the BBC is to show a 90-minute special edition of *All Creatures Great and Small*, but there are no plans for any further programmes.

This has prompted differing views within Askrigg. Some villagers are glad it is all over, but others, who have enjoyed the brush with fame and fortune and have developed friendships with actors and television crew members, express some regret.

John Abraham, the 63-year-old chairman of Askrigg parish council,

reflects a view held by a number of villagers: "I am pleased the series is ending. There has been too much publicity for a place this size. We can't cope with the cars bringing in the tourists. Some of them come here expecting to be entertained, but there is nothing to entertain them. I am hoping we can go back to being a quiet, normal working village."

Such hopes will probably prove to be unfounded. As one local noted: "The rest of the programme are in the can, to be repeated endlessly."

Other areas of the country have pounced on fame from television or books to promote their tourist industries: Holmfirth in West Yorkshire, the *Last of the Summer Wine* country; Catherine Cookson country in the northeast; and Eric Whitworth country in the Lake District. But, perhaps more than anywhere else, the Yorkshire Dales have become linked with one man. There are Herriot tours, Herriot tearooms, Herriot gift shops stocking Herriot guidebooks as well as numerous other attempts to cash in on the name.

Mr Harvey, who is drawing up a strategy to deal with tourism in the Dales well into the next century, says: "In some ways the series has cheapened the area. The Dales had their own majesty before this programme for people who made the effort to see them. When all the interest began, we thought it was no bad thing. Only later did we realise it was a mixed blessing."

At a recent dinner of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Robert Hardy, who plays Siegfried in the series, conceded that filming of the programme "bored the tourists and annoyed the locals".

In a stone cottage called Coles House, Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby are compiling a pictorial survey of the village and its 400 or so residents. It will become part of Askrigg's Herriot connection to be handed down to succeeding generations. Only time will tell whether the rest of the legacy will be as gratefully received.

## Breeding Santa's high flyers

FEW animals have done more for mankind than reindeer, which provide meat, milk, mobility, clothing and Christmas fun.

Elizabeth and Alan Smith own the only free-ranging herd in Britain. Among the near 100-strong herd on their leased 6,000 acres in the Cairngorms are "stars" from *Santa Claus: the Movie*.

Reindeer are among the most tractable and docile of creatures. "Two quite happily followed me into a hospital lift to get to the children's ward on the fourth floor," Mrs Smith says of her recent tour of schools and hospitals in the south of England.

The Smiths' reindeer are mainly the offspring of the 25 animals introduced into Scotland in the early Fifties by Mike Usher, a Swedish Lapp, and his wife, Dr Ethel Lindgren. On the death of the pioneering couple, Mr Smith, formerly an apprentice keeper, acquired the Cairngorms Reindeer Centre. "We have about a dozen reindeer trained for halter and harness and public appearances



Reindeer have a nose for food but, after Christmas, they will move into the hills and we probably won't see them again until May, when the calves are born," Mrs Smith says.

Although social animals, they are nomadic and self-sufficient, surviving on lichens, heathers, sedges, bilberries and deciduous trees, but the Smiths supplement their animals' winter diet with sugar beets, oats and barley.

When the calves are born, almost invariably one per cow in May, they resemble colts and are about 18in high at the shoulder. They must be on their feet and running with their mothers within an hour or so of birth; it is unheard of for a calf to be left at the mercy of predators.

The reindeer calves start looking for solid food within three days of birth and can suckle for up to five months, although they are capable of living independently after a month," Mrs Smith says.

In evolutionary terms, reindeer are the most advanced species of deer, and the only one in which both males and females grow antlers, which can extend to 3ft.

Fully grown reindeer, standing about 3ft high at the shoulder, are probably smaller than many people imagine, Mrs Smith says. They live for up to 13 years.

SANDY BISP

Further information, and details of the Adopt a Reindeer scheme, are available from Mrs Elizabeth Smith, the Cairngorms Reindeer Centre, Glenmore, Aviemore, Inverness-shire PH22 0AT (0479 86228).

## Hurrah, the killer is back

Feather report

THREE years ago I would get over-excited by the sight of a sparrowhawk. It can't be! It is, you know! Unbelievable! Well, I am delighted to say that this year I have have grown blasé about them. Jolly good, another sparrowhawk; how many is that this year? Dunno, lost count. Did you miss it? Never mind, there'll be another one along in a minute.

Recent sparrowhawk sightings: one overflying me by no more than six feet on Hadley Wood railway station in Hertfordshire; one from a car on the Staines bypass in Surrey; two in half-an-hour viewed from the top deck of a horse; one being mobbed by a couple of crows. The last one was sailing along as if he were enjoying his display of casual mastery of the airways when one crow got too close. For a fraction of a second, the sparrowhawk flicked over and, inverted, flashed his talons. The crows backed off.

And yet another, this time at the Slimbridge reserve in Gloucestershire, during the floodlit feeding of the swans. There are always starlings that come to pinch some of the swans' food. Bang! A thunderbolt. And there was a sparrowhawk with a dead starling. The sparrowhawk had appeared and killed during the blinking of an eye. Thanks, chaps, you can turn the lights off now. Resourceful beasts, these sparrowhawks.

These sightings do not illustrate my good fortune. There are a lot more sparrowhawks about. The British Trust for Ornithology has just published the results of its Common Bird Census for 1988-89: yes, we have an increase, a marked reverse of recent trends. Something worth celebrating.

Sparrowhawks are Britain's second most common bird of prey. First place goes to kestrels, the birds that hover alongside motorways. (In fact, I can see one even as I write this piece: a female hovering over the railway cutting in front of my window.)

Kestrels are highly visible, particularly the female. Sparrowhawks are not. They are dashing exploiters of cover: they lurk in



Kingpin: the sparrowhawk is recovering from DDT and gamekeepers

woods, move fast and appear unexpectedly. By then it is too late for most birds: sparrowhawks eat virtually nothing but birds.

Gamekeepers have always been great killers of sparrowhawks. Some still are, but there are few gamekeepers about, and that has certainly helped the sparrowhawks along.

The real reason for the resurgence of the sparrowhawk, however, is to do with pesticides. DDT, made to kill insects, is a brilliantly efficient killer of birds of prey. It is an old story now (though not, as we shall see, out of date). The poison is residual and it marches through the entire ecosystem: if you eat insects affected by DDT the poison builds up and concentrates inside you; if you eat the birds that eat the insects that are affected by DDT you get the highest concentration of all. Bad news for sparrowhawks.

Birds of prey were affected catastrophically. DDT was finally banned as recently as 1986, after a period of gradual phasing out. It is only recently that sparrowhawks have made anything like a recovery. These things take time. I do most of my birding in the

south and east: it is here, where there are great tracts of arable land, that sparrowhawks were most disastrously affected, and where they have been slowest to revive. But they are making it now. All of which leaves us with a happy ending: wise legislation, a great bird, a conservation success. Three cheers for everybody. But there is a sting in the tail, alas.

It is illegal to use DDT in Britain because it has a terrible effect on our countryside. But the stuff is cheap, the patent has expired, and there are plenty of people still making it. These include two companies in India, and others in eastern Europe, China and South Africa. The end-users of the poison are in the Third World: it is the traditional pattern of repeating the errors of the developed world.

However, every small gain in conservation is worth a cheer. It is heartening to see sparrowhawks, to know that their increasing numbers indicate in the clearest way that a poison has been eliminated from the ecosystem of which they are the kingpin.

SIMON BARNES

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**JUDY FROSHAUG**







# 'Vintage' wine: how old would you like it to be?

There are two reasons why that treasured liquid carefully laid down in the cellar could taste sour.

The first is that there were faults in its bottling or storage. The second, that the wine is fake. Quality wines are not sampled for generations, which gives a fakes ample time to make his getaway. He also has on his side the fact that few people can tell the nectar from the raff.

Misgivings remain as to the authenticity of four bottles of Twenties Chateau Petrus opened at a recent wine tasting given by Hardy Rodenstock, the German collector and dealer. "To me they didn't look like wines of those vintages, being all too much alike. Normally in wines of that age you get substantial differences," says David Peppercorn, an international consultant based in London, who attended the tasting.

During the decade in question, the "chateau" was small and obscure, with no documentary records. "A lot of chateaux have no accurate records of where their wines went, especially during the war," Mr Rodenstock says.

Even at the best of times, quality wine has always offered difficulties of definition. After sustaining a poor crop, growers have been known to improve, or pad out, their inferior products by adding grapes from nearby vineyards. Now, with wine values on the increase, the temptation to fake potions is greater than ever.

Scientific methods of testing are fallible, carbon dating of deposits being reliable for a limited number of dates. Anyway, some people could fake a given vintage by adding the necessary amounts of radioactive carbon, says Geoffrey Taylor of Corkwise, a chemist who is often employed by the Wine Standards Board. The new French technique of "nuclear magnetic resonance" can confirm where grapes were grown, but not when.

Mr Peppercorn says owners of several leading chateaux are concerned at the increase of suspicious requests to recork old bottles. "Nowadays they want a pretty good reason for obliging, because being recorked and labelled on their premises confers a certain authenticity."

Over the past decade, however, a few fakers have been unmasked, often due to slip-ups on their own part. An overseas client sold at Christie's a jeroboam of 1924 Mouton Rothschild, the first wine

Some of those precious wines laid down for a special occasion could be more nouveau than expected, says Sarah Jane Checkland

produced by Baron Philippe de Rothschild. It was bought for several thousand pounds by a Cheshire-based wine merchant, who took it away on credit. Having got it home, he noticed that the jostling from train journeys had left no sign of sediment, says Michael Broadbent, Christie's wine expert. "Rather riskily, he opened it. It was red ink." Later it transpired that the bottle had been on display in a restaurant.

A Kent man called C.P. Lutman got away with faking relatively cheap vintage port for two years. His successes included selling bottles through Phillips in Oxford. Two bottles were intercepted at Christie's South Kensington, following suspicions voiced by Sotheby's. "We had had serious concern over two bottles because the wax seal at the top was not traditional wine wax, but candle wax dyed black," says David Molyneux-Berry, to whom the bottle was consigned. "I thought perhaps a private individual had decided to rewrap the bottle, because the wax sometimes comes off, but why dye it black?" Having

written to the man, asking him for more information about the bottles, Mr Molyneux-Berry put them in Sotheby's cellar. Then, one Monday morning, there was an enormous cracking noise. One of the bottles had popped its cork, causing the bottle to bounce around the room. The expert grabbed it and tasted some of the remains. "It was Lambrusco, an Italian semi-sparkling wine, mixed with sugar and a bit of yeast," Mr Molyneux-Berry says.

When the police visited Mr Lutman, they caught him red-handed, concocting another batch from supermarket wine. After a court case, he was fined.

The biggest cause célèbre, however, surrounds a bottle of 1787 Chateau-Lafite, said to have been ordered by Thomas Jefferson, the American president, during a trip to France. The bottle fetched a world record at Christie's of £105,000 in 1985, selling to Malcolm Forbes, the American millionaire. Mr Rodenstock, the vendor, refuses to say where he found it, other than in Paris. The sale has been haunted by misgiv-

ings, not least from the Jefferson museum in Charlottesville.

"We cannot make any connection between Jefferson and that particular bottle, and others which have been sold since then," says Cinder Stanton, director of research at the museum last week. "I am not particularly impressed with Christie's research."

The debate focuses on the fact that, although Jefferson kept records of all wine purchases obsessively, there is no record of this. Also, the initials "Th. J.", wheel-engraved on the bottle, do not "quite fit any of the forms used or specified by Jefferson", according to Miss Stanton.

We will never know the truth about the Jefferson wine as, having been placed under bright lights in Forbes's museum of presidential history, its cork shrank and fell into a liquid which was by then stewed.

However, let us return to your cellar at home. Say the bottle selected tastes glorious. Before you toast your connoisseurship, or luck, consider this: apart from essences capable of imitating the oak from an old cask, the latest equipment on the fakers' list is a machine which is believed to age wine by sound waves.

The only answer is to make sure you buy a foolproof provenance along with that bottle.

## Man with a nose for a rarity

The two biggest questions in the wine world are: Who is Hardy Rodenstock, and where does he make his extraordinary wine finds?

The German national first hit the headlines in 1985 as the man who discovered the Thomas Jefferson bottle of Chateau-Lafite which sold for a record-breaking £105,000 at Christie's.

Since then, his triumphs have included unearthing 100 cases of 19th century classified-growth Bordeaux in Venezuela, for which he has said he paid nearly \$1 million (£515,000) in cash, and a rare bottle bearing the 18th century coat of arms of the Sauvage family in Leningrad.

According to Stephen Browett, of Farr Vintners in London, Mr Rodenstock is "the most famous wine collector in the world". His connoisseurship is certainly formidable: he has been known to identify numerous difficult vin-

tages correctly while blindfolded during tastings.

The problem is that many of Mr Rodenstock's stocks appear on the market without a provenance, or history. The Jefferson bottle, he says, came with a bulk purchase of 100 bottles from Paris, but he refuses to say exactly where.

As the current issue of the *Wine Spectator* magazine says, he "continues to raise as many questions as he answers about the authenticity of the rare wines he pulls out of his cellar".

Michael Broadbent, the head of wine at Christie's, says people "think his wine is too good to be true", although in his opinion it is absolutely authentic. "I'd love to know more myself about where he gets them from." An Essen-born beer drinker and, he once said, manager of "easy-listening music similar to the Carpenters" in the Seventies, Mr Rodenstock had a "road to Damascus" experience in

1976 after drinking some excellent bottles of Bordeaux at a friend's house, and within two years he had left the music business to start collecting and dealing in wines. Now he has cellars all over the world, and is constantly on the move, selling to a coterie of industrialists in Germany and Japan. Since 1980 he has held what have become legendary wine tastings.

Apart from being under fire by *Wine Spectator*, which continues to question both his Jefferson bottle and some of his Chateau Petrus vintages, the other intriguing aspect about Mr Rodenstock is that he has just initiated a dispute with an erstwhile friend to whom he sold some bottles on condition they were never sold again. The friend apparently tried to consign them to Christie's.

S.J.C.



David Molyneux-Berry: "There was a cracking noise, a bottle was bouncing around the room"

## Window on past devotions

### Icons

THE Greek word *eikona* means an image: in the art world it is used to denote those faint, often lugubrious, devotional portraits, usually painted on wooden panels in strong colours and gold leaf, which decorate Greek and Russian Orthodox churches.

However, collectors and devotees are acquiring the taste fast, and London is the hub of icon-dealing in the west. Maria Andipa, a Greek Orthodox who runs the Icon Gallery in Knightsbridge, London, says she regularly meets artists "who want to have an icon in the house, mainly for its spiritual qualities". The first icon, she says, was an outline of Christ's features, imprinted on a towel as he mopped his face. Luke is said to have been among the first painters of the Madonna and Child and a painting attributed to him, *Hadithria* ("Pointer of the Way") was quickly reproduced by icon painters. Five of these are now in Greece.

As Christianity spread, so icons became objects of veneration, even fetishism. Miraculous qualities were claimed of them as protectors against disasters, and people took to washing icons and drinking the water as medicine, or carrying about tiny shavings from them as a talisman. This practice continued in Byzantium until the 8th century, when it was declared idolatrous and prohibited for more than 100 years. An official band of "icon-



Plaque paradox: Maria Andipa, an icons specialist, says: "Atheists want something spiritual"

oclasts" seized and destroyed every icon they could find.

Iconoclasm is just as active today. Think of Romania. Mrs Andipa's greatest treasure is from Romania: an interpretation of the Virgin, swathed in tatty lace and five rows of real pearls blackened by candle smoke. It was smuggled out of the country by a Romanian woman whose priest had snatched it from the rubble of a church destroyed by Nicolae Ceausescu, the former president.

What gives this icon (probably 18th century) its ineffable quality for Mrs Andipa are the accretions of intense spiritual devotions, performed by so

many over the years, which appear to hang about it like incense. "For me," she says, "the aura of an icon is more important than the look." This may sound fanciful, but not only did an icon provide a focus for devotions — "a window to Paradise" in Mrs Andipa's phrase — but its creation was an act of devotion, requiring preparation in the form of prayer and fasting. Originality and innovation play such a small part in the history of icons that dating and identification present problems, and there are fakes aplenty. Collectors prepared to travel will find many icons for sale in eastern Europe,

often genuine treasures, but they should know that while shops will gladly pocket their money, they will not be allowed to take their finds out of the country. Such stock may be the result of church theft or looting. Icons are still painted by traditional methods — even to using paint made to original recipes — and sold as new, thus avoiding such dilemmas. Mrs Andipa sells them, alongside older, more expensive work, but they would certainly not score highly on her aura rating.

**JENNY GILBERT**  
Mrs Andipa's icons can be seen at 162 Walton Street, London SW3 (071-589 2371).

### Review

● High hopes: Agnew is asking £13 million for a luminous Venetian view by J.M.W. Turner, which has passed through the dealers' hands three times since first being exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1841. It is thought to be the most valuable painting on the market.

Top flop: John Constable's *Fen Lane*, a lively oil painting estimated at £2 million to £3 million, went unsold with no bids at Phillips.

Winnable: A pen and black ink drawing by E.H. Shepherd of Winnie the Pooh contemplating a bath made a record £22,000 at Christie's South Kensington.

Masterly touch: The record for Jan Lievens, the 17th century Dutch painter, was smashed when his portrait of a boy fetched £583,000 at Monbams.

Offcut: The scandalous letters of Lady Caroline Lamb and Lord Byron failed to reach



their estimate of £100,000 and went unsold at Sotheby's.

### Preview

● Today: Gentlemen are requested to behave in a seemly fashion during the sale of 400 lots of toy trains at Lucy Scott in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, at 11am.

Monday: The 2pm sale at Christie's South Kensington, will no doubt end in tears since it, too, is devoted to model trains, including the Marklin O'Gauge "Cock O' The North" at up to £20,000.

At 4pm, Wealden Auction Galleries begins an 800 lot mixture-gatherum antique sale in the Vestry Hall at Cranbrook, Kent. There is yet another final session of Tom Keating's fake paintings at Bonhams at 6pm.

Tuesday: An excellent impression of Hokusaï's great print *Red Fuji* is expected to make up to £80,000 at Sotheby's 10.30am. Postman Pat takes over Phillips at 11am with the sale of 150 of the original drawings by Joan Hickson. At noon, Capes Dunn of Manchester combines a sale of

real cars and speedboats with toys and models.

Wednesday: Chinese ceramics and works of art at Phillips in London; and book sales by Dominic Winter in Swindon, 11am and 2pm, and Michael Newman in Plymouth at 2pm.

Thursday: Flotsam and jetsam of the pop and entertainment world at Christie's South Kensington, 10.30am and 2pm. It is hoped Harrison Ford's bullwhip will raise up to £5,000 for the Institute of Archaeology.

● Lucy Scott, 10 Rishergate Street, Bury St Edmunds (0284 736531). Sotheby's, 35 New Bond Street (071-493 8080). Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611). Wealden Auction Galleries, 23 Handley Drive, Cranbrook, Kent (0580 714522). Bonhams, Montpelier Street SW7 (071-584 9161). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, (071-629 6602). Capes Dunn, 38 Charles Street, Manchester (061-273 1911). Dominic Winter Books Auctions, Plunkett Sale Room, Old Town, Swindon (0793 611340). Michael Newman, Kintbury House, St Andrews Cross, Plymouth (0752 669298).

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# The mystery of the Sunday club murders

It is Sunday evening, a few days after Christmas. The cat is curled up on the sofa, the answering-machine is set to intercept calls without so much as a ring. Poached eggs on toast and a dollop of Christmas pudding, smothered in brandy butter, have been washed down with half a bottle of claret. The blow of defeat at the new Trivial Pursuit is now a distant blur. Sinking deeper into the cushions, you press the television remote control to enjoy the last essential ingredient of perfect seasonal bliss: a cold-blooded whodunit.

So George Orwell might begin, if he was around today, to rewrite his celebrated 1946 essay, *Decline of the English Murder*. Dark winter evenings just would not be the same without the weekly appointment with death, and this year promises to be a bumper vintage. Next weekend the BBC unwraps its new television sleuth, Ngaio Marsh's slick 1940s Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn (his case: bizarre murder of nude artist's model). Ruth Rendell's ubiquitous Chief Inspector Wexford has a two-hour special on Christmas Eve (famous flautist found drowned in icy lake). A new London Weekend Television series of Agatha Christie's Poirot starts on Sunday evenings in January: the sanguine Inspector Morse is back in February, and so it goes on.

The popular appeal of the whodunit is itself a mystery. Perhaps a clue lies in its scheduling: normally on Sunday evenings, sandwiched somewhere between *Songs of Praise* and the news. As Orwell observed, Sunday was always the day for settling down in an armchair to enjoy a grisly murder in the paper. The old poisoning dramas made comforting reading because they were the product of a stable society, when crimes at least had strong emotions behind them.

The snag these days is that real murder can no longer be seriously

**Why are we gripped by the whodunits?**  
**William Cash**  
suspects that there is more to this case than meets the eye

enjoyed as one of the fine arts. While a villain such as Dr Crippen was memorable because his crime had tragic qualities that could excite pity for both victim and murderer, the modern murder usually lacks cunning or depth of feeling. In fact it often appears meaningless. Although we are swamped by images of death in the newspapers or on television, there are rarely any explanations. Watching a murder whodunit is very different. It is Aristotelian not only in linear structure but also in cathartic effect. To begin with, we know what is going to happen. We may not know who the killer is, but we know a heinous crime will be committed. "The corpse must shock", W.H. Auden wrote in an essay on detective fiction, "not only because it is a corpse, but also because, even for a corpse, it is shockingly out of place, as when a dog makes a mess on the drawing room carpet."

Next, a logical sequence of events must follow, in which guilty appear innocent and innocent guilty. Accepted moral values are shattered, until Poirot rounds up the suspects in the library and solves the crime. The criminal is exiled, fear dispelled, the moral order reaffirmed. So detectives such as Morse perform a useful therapeutic role, showing that justice will win in the end.

Colin Dexter, creator of Inspector Morse, admits that one attraction of the whodunit is the vicarious satisfaction of sitting on the outside and observing some

injustice. "Like at the end of a crossword puzzle you get a revelation to the moral equilibrium. The business of solving things in a neat unequivocal way is extremely important."

The oldest detective story is Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*. The murder story has always thrived in societies like our own, which have historically always had trouble enforcing law and order. Elizabethan England, for example, had no standing army or police force. When a murder was committed, someone had to be quickly executed in front of the largest audience possible to demonstrate that the cancer had been removed. In the Victorian age, Jack the Ripper became a legend precisely because he was never caught.

Death has always been a popular holiday sport. When the Romans watched gladiators maul each other to death, part of the thrill was walking away with the comforting feeling of a survivor. Witnessing the death of a stranger was a reassuring theatrical drama giving a momentary sense of immortality as well as a sharp reminder of mortality.

As John Carey has observed, religion is mankind's answer to death. Not many people spend Sundays in church these days, but an estimated 11 million will settle down to the ritual of watching Inspector Alleyn on BBC 1 next Sunday evening. This will be followed by an *Everyman* religious programme that the majority will doubtless switch off. The emotional comfort we will get from seeing Alleyn solving a crime—finding an answer to death—is more than nostalgia for a vanished social order. It is a form of spiritual exercise.

But the television whodunit has to adhere to a strict formula. Marsh's *Artists in Crime* fits the classic mould precisely by taking place in a closed society where the possibility of an outside murderer is excluded. The location of the drama must be as far removed from reality as possible, for if we



Detective in a therapeutic role? Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot, as played by David Suchet

are to gain comfort from a murder, we have to know the suffering is imagined, not real. The genre requires that we never see the grisly action of the murderer at work. By the time we discover who the murderer is, his or her human qualities are so enmeshed in the rich period and domestic atmosphere that it is difficult not to feel empathy with him or her.

Orson Welles's version of *Macbeth* was flawed because he was shown hacking away at his victims with a 12-inch kitchen knife, while

Shakespeare preferred to leave the audience just with his bloody hands and pitiable guilt. As Colin Dexter says, "Morse is almost sad at the end actually to arrest the perpetrator of the crime."

The police have traditionally had trouble gaining credibility in detective fiction. The eccentric amateur, such as Lord Peter Wimsey, has always been more fashionable. To get round the "PC Plod" stereotype, television police inspectors are now as cantankerously civilised as their amateur

predecessors. Just as Holmes played the violin and quoted Goethe and Flaubert (when not high on cocaine), so world-weary Morse is an opera expert, a whisky addict who drives a vintage Jaguar. Being something of a social misfit, Inspector Alleyn is a classic sleuth. After studying at Oxford University, he joined the diplomatic service, only to resign in order to join the police. Like Morse and P.D. James's Alexander Dalgleish, Alleyn is another alienated hero for our times.

## Those zany Elizabethans at play

**THEATRE**  
**In the Doghouse Warehouse, Croydon**

FOLLOWING breathlessly on the heels of *The Clink* at Riverside Studios, another mock-Elizabethan romp tumbles on to the London stage, full of deliberate anachronisms, as well as the usual droll naughtiness and plenty of knowing nudges in the ribs of history.

On Wednesday, delighted screams from Croydon goodwives greeted the occasional verbal rudeness and the sight of a man in underwear, by hen-party standards the first scene goes with a swing. But after Sir Courty Gallant has had his celestial globes fondled by Luscious Lucinda (who is not what she seems) and has been stripped to his longjohns, the merriment fizzles out in a rambling, disjointed and

barely coherent series of garbled episodes whose effortful facetiousness evokes radio comedy at its weakest.

Writer David Allen is best known for *Cheapside*, another arabesque on Tudor themes. His latest play shows signs of last-minute rewriting which helps neither the clarity of the plot nor the energetic cast.

The story involves Ben Jonson, Shakespeare, a rogue called Arthur Prickshafte, Sir Courty Gallant, a property developer, and Shakespeare's dotty old mum, following him from Stratford with a basket of goodies. It also concerns a feminist group called the Disaff International Collective of Kant (yes, the acronym is uttered—several times) and, without giving away too much of the plot, a boy actor who plays women's roles and Shakespeare's twin sister, Joan.

Apart from the rhymed couplets for Prickshafte who acts as prologue and epilogue, the language is

modern, not even pastiche Elizabethan. The satirical tone can be gauged by the portrayal of Inigo Jones as a camp Welsh designer in artist's smock, dying to get into interior decorating.

Shakespeare is initially presented as a naff Midlander with a Black Country accent. The performance brilliantly preserves the surprise element that provides the play's first (and last) *coup de théâtre*.

If the writing at times suggests an abandoned sitcom (an *Up Yer Blackfriars*, perhaps) taken from the author's bottom drawer, the performance does at least do all it can to make it seem worthwhile. On Michael Pavella's Tudor stage, a thrust platform backed by

a traverse curtain, Ted Craig directs a tirelessly enthusiastic cast.

Not for the first time, Okon Jones's style and personality fill out feeble material. Carol Burns strives manfully as a north country lesbian feminist (another indication of the writing's freshness and originality).

Graham Christopher (Inigo Jones and Sir Courty), David John (a boy actor) and Frank Ellis (Ben Jonson) do wonders with their tatty roles. Of Linda Spurrier, suffice it to say that her stint with the Royal Shakespeare Company has paid unforeseen dividends....

MARTIN HOYLE



Wonders with tatty roles: Carol Burns and Graham Christopher

**DANCE**  
**Raymonda Covent Garden**

SHOULD the Royal Ballet be importing Laurent Hilaire from Paris to dance two performances of *Raymonda*? Some spectators as well as dancers are unhappy about the high number of guest stars at Covent Garden. But if the company has any other dancer suited in height, temperament, experience and ability to partner Sylvie Guillem, it has been keeping remarkably quiet about him.

Their performance together on Thursday was dazzling. *Raymonda*'s big solo is based on Hungarian rhythms, with an implied mixture of moods to match its alternation of languor and speed. Altyнай Asymuratova, two weeks earlier, had brought out more strongly the reserved pride: Guillem put the chief emphasis on the fiery exhilaration. Both interpretations are rewarding when they are as well danced as by these two.

Guillem's crisp exactness of finish is matched point for point by Hilaire. Not many dancers can rival his blending of brilliance and elegance. While his legs are accomplishing bold and intricate patterns, his arms shape themselves into voluptuous arcs; and

all this while he is hurtling through the air.

Among the supporting cast, the best dancing came from Elizabeth McGorian and Stephen Wicks in the opening Hungarian dance. Like the French guests, they know how to deliver on stage: not just to perform the steps but to present them stylishly, enthusiastically, and with flair. Others around them moved competently, accurately, tidily, but the two lead couples in their contrasted entries really made the audience see the shape and point of the dances.

The other outstanding couple in this performance was Viviana Durante and Stuart Cassidy in the opening work, Balanchine's *Serenade*. The way they dance the second slow movement, *Aria II*, is magical: letting a rich emotion come through the choreography without imposing any sentimentality on it. Durante has had less publicity than some of her contemporaries, but she is an unfailing source of delight for the consistent excellence of her dancing.

The French do not have a monopoly of talent, neither do the Russians who supply many of the other guest stars at present. There is ability among the Royal Ballet's own dancers, but whether it is always shown to best advantage is another matter.

JOHN PERCIVAL

**THEATRE**  
**Tess King's Head, Islington**

THOUGH starting at one o'clock, this is no lunchtime quickie but a two-and-a-half-hour version of Hardy's novel of love, betrayal, selfishness and sacrifice. Rumours of a remarkable central performance are justified: it makes up for a rough and ready production (by Syd Goldy), and effaces memories of Nastassia Kinski pointing her way through Polanski's film like a bored air cruising the King's Road on her afternoon off.

On a stage bare but for the odd stick of furniture, John Dunne's adaptation packs in most of the novel. The eight-strong cast is sharply differentiated according to sex. The three women are good, though Joan Kirkman's sweet-faced, anxious Mrs Durbeyfield is possibly too nice for the amoral pragmatism she urges on her daughter's besieged honour. Lisa Hopkins provides a lovely portrait of poor Marian, the milkmaid jealous of Tess's ensnarement of the eligible Angel Clare: impulsive, tearfully resentful, honest and basically good-hearted.

To say the men are uniformly awful would be inaccurate; they are all awful in different ways. At

least a consistent character emerges from Simon Holmes's Alec, an aristocratic seducer. Tim Tracey's gangling Angel Clare is a token figure playing a set of not too varied variations on a note of doleful gormlessness throughout. The same lugubrious tone is applied equally to such lines as "Pie upon you for such bitterness", "I love you better in your wing bonnet" and, when confronted by the woman who has just murdered her lover, "What do you mean, killed him? Bodily? Is he dead?"

The crucial scenes between Tess, the girl with the guilty secret, and her goody-goody fiancé become even more than usual a meeting of different cultures and social assumptions, since the two actors occupy different planets. It makes Tess's heartbroken "Am I too wicked for us to live together?" sound like her own idea, since her immobile partner seems incapable of formulating anything so positive.

Fortunately, at the heart of the production Tanya Franks glows with intelligence and sensitivity, a Tess truly "a peasant by position, not by nature". She combines vulnerability with pride, freshness with dignity, hope with increasing disillusionment. Her final confrontation with authority is deeply moving. Watch out for her.

MARTIN HOYLE

## Freedom without the props

CONCERT

Fidelio Festival Hall

THE South Bank this week has been shadowing the Royal Opera's current repertoire, with two concert performances of *Die Fledermaus* followed on Thursday by one of *Fidelio*. Beethoven's must be the opera most often done as a concert piece, for the good reason that it works that way: the musical numbers are nearly all moments of stasis set into a drama proceeding in speech. And, as this performance proved, one can disconnect the music from the play altogether.

The programme promised a truncated version of the dialogue, but in fact not a word was said, except, of course, in the melodrama sequence. It was perhaps odd that Fernando should recognise Florestan with astonishment when both had their eyes fixed firmly on the conductor, but better this than the kind of half-acting in concert dress we often see.

The conductor who was the object of the principals' riveted attention — and of the orchestra's, and of the audience's — was Lorin Maazel, whose repertoire of tense, angular gestures, springs and crouches drew playing of keen colour and emphatic address, at tempos that were always brisk. One benefit of a concert performance, of course, is that one can hear the orchestra more clearly, in part simply because one can see it. This was an occasion for appreciating the great variety of texture and instrumental resource the score contains: the growling somber sounds of trombones, bassoons and double-basses in the second-act Leonore-Rocco duet, for instance, were very much to the fore. Orchestrally, this was a performance at the furthest possible remove from the golden blending of Bernard Haitink's recent recording, but leanness was made an abundant advantage.

Another happy feature of the performance was the singing of the Philharmonia Chorus and Ambrosian Singers, a large body which was yet able to operate over a wide range of tone from cold pianissimos to full splendour, and which could also put the words across distinctly, even at low volume.

Diction was not always so clear among the soloists. Luana Devol as Leonore offered a beautiful tone, warm but clear, and admirably sustained over a wide pitch range. She was, though, short on expression and on power, perhaps fearing a tendency for tone and articulation to falter under pressure. Thomas Moser as Florestan, too, was rather quiet, though not in his opening clarion call. If he could gain a little strength, while keeping the delicacy of a Mozart tenor, this would become a remarkable performance. Lilian Watson was a delightful Marzelline, Kurt Rydl a dark Rocco, giving the character an apt sulkiness, and Monte Pederson a fiery Pizarro. He is the only one currently singing his role in the theatre; it showed.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Saturday Review, page 20

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## Churchill's stalking horse

"There was a strange miasma about the early 1980s. I was making Caravaggio just as Winston Churchill's bill came along, and he used me as one of the stalking horses. At the same time, the arts minister, Grey Gowrie, was coming to see me on the set, saying 'Great, great, this looks wonderful'. You see the anomalies I had to deal with?"

Derek Jarman, the uncompromising independent director, talks to John Walsh, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

**THE REHEARSAL**  
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GARRICK THEATRE



## BBC 1

- 7.00 Crystal Tipps and Allstars.** Cartoon about a girl and her dog (r) 7.05 Janosch's Story Time. Cartoon series (r) 7.30 Touché Turtle. Cartoon adventures of the carapace crawler (r) 7.35 Babar. Animated adventures of the famous elephant.
- 8.00 Breakfast Saturday.** Early episode from the five day series. Includes: *The Kitchen Crew*, *Single Tales*, *Zurich Runners and NiceChap* - all starring Caroline Berry, John Higgins, Julie Jenkins and William Petrie 8.35 *BraveStarr*. Cartoon (r)
- 9.00 Going Live!** Young people's magazine hosted by Phillip Schofield and Sarah Greene. *EastEnders* star Sophie Lawrence presents the grand final of stage one in the talent contest to find the best young singer in Britain. Guest includes Linda Robson and Pauline Quirke from *Birds of a Feather* and there is a review of feature films being released for the Christmas season. 12.12 *Weather*
- 12.15 Grandstand** introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is subject to alteration. 12.20 *Cricket*: highlights of the World Series Cup fourth round game between England and New Zealand in Brisbane. 12.30 *Siding*: the men's downhill championship from Val Gardena. The commentator is David Vine. 12.50 *Racing from Ascot* (the HSS Hair Shops hurdle). 1.20 (Youngmen Long Walk hurdle); and

1.55 (the SGB Handicap chase). With commentary by Peter O'Sullivan, Julian Wilson, Richard Pitman and Peter Scudamore; 1.00 News; 1.30 and 2.05 *Show Jumping*: the Olympia Horse Show from London. The commentators are Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley. 2.50 *Rugby League*: a round three match in the Regal Trophy. Highlights of the first half and the contents of the second. Ray French describes the action. 3.45 *Tennis*: the first semi-final of the Grand Slam Cup from Munich. Mark Cox and Dan Maskell are the commentators. 4.40 *Afternoon Sports*

**5.05 News** with Moira Stuart. *Weather*

**5.15 Scottish News** and sport

**5.20 The Flying Doctors: No Way Back.** Uncomplicated drama series about Australia's Flying Doctor Service. Sadness for Sam and Emma when they lose their much-wanted baby. George Baxter tries to get his hands on Ann's property and Chris takes Geoff up in his Tiger Moth. Starring Robert Grubb and Liz Burch. (Ceefax)

**6.05 The Noel Edmonds Saturday Roadshow.** The venue is the Bitterley School for Performing Arts where Ronnie Corbett is the principal. He fancies himself as a talent spotter and among the eager participants are Noel, Henry Cooper, Kiki Te Kanawa and Richard Claydon.

**6.50 Every Second Counts.** Three more couples compete for a dream holiday

**7.25 Challenge Anneka.** Anneka Rice is again busy building Rome in a day, but this time it is to redecorate, inside and out, the lighthouse in Harpsburgh, Norfolk, recently saved from redundancy by the grateful local residents. Anneka's men take the building upstairs with a head for heights. (Ceefax)

**8.15 Film: Farris Bueker's Day Off (1986).** Fast and funny comedy starring Matthew Broderick (currently opposite Marlon Brando in *The Freshman*) who plays a teenage truant determined to have the "day off of a lifetime". To this end he drags along his friend from his sick bed and sets off in a borrowed 1951 Ferrari. Directed by John Hughes.

**9.55 News** with Moira Stuart. *Weather*

**10.15 Sportsweek** with Dougie Donnelly. Includes Football action from the premier division; Rugby Union: the McEwan's Inter District championship; and Show Jumping from the Grand Prix, Olympia

**11.45 The Phil Spector Trifecta (1983).** Potentially effective adaptation, with good special effects, of John Wyndham's classic sci-fi novel about man-eating plants. US naval officer Howard Keel is one of the eight sighted people left after Earth has been bombed by shadowy creatures and the biologist who tries to understand the mysterious trifecta. Directed by Steve Seidley

**12.00am Weather**

**8.30 Great Moments in Food History.** Bernard Branson, David Troughton and Christopher Ryan lend comic relief to four people who have given their names to great gastronomic inventions - Rossini, the Earl of Sandwich, Dame Nellie Melba and Gaius Julius

**8.35 The Story of Food in 27 Minutes.** Made Earlier. Clips of some of television's most famous cooks, including Fanny Craddock, Zena Skinner and Delia Smith

**9.00 Good Manners.** Clips from films with famous eating sequences including *Five Easy Pieces*, *Tampopo* (see 12.45am) and *Another Year*

**9.15 What's a Kitchen?** The ancient kitchen is a place where food is prepared and eaten. The last supper. Food as a last rite. 9.35 *The Last Supper.* Food as a last rite. 9.55 *The Complete History of the Potato.* The humble spud gets the star treatment from experts

**10.20 I Just Happen To Have One Here I Made Earlier.** Clips of some of television's most famous cooks, including Fanny Craddock, Zena Skinner and Delia Smith

**10.30 Movable Feast - The Politics of Disgust.** Some people have eaten some funny things and explorer Christine Dowdell, body builder Bernie Price, and George Best are the stars. Rumbles reflect on the things no one wants to eat

**11.10 Eating for One.** The road to being slim is paved with good intentions. As Christmas approaches, the rewards of fasting and abstinence. As Christmas approaches, the rewards of fasting and abstinence. As Christmas approaches, the rewards of fasting and abstinence.

**11.40 Debates.** Glynis Kinnock, economist Lord Peter Bauer and Third World campaigner Susan George join a panel of distinguished guests to find the solution to hunger in a greedy world

**12.45am Film: Tampopo (1986).** A perfect tale of food and life in this quirky Japanese comedy. A young widow who runs a restaurant but cannot cook, and a truck driver who decides to show her how. The film contains several witty vignettes about food, and a spoof on the spaghetti western. Directed by Juzo Itami. Ends at 2.40

**THE MOVIE CHANNEL.** 12.00 *News and Foreword* A teenage love story with a twist. 1.00 *The Morning After* (1986) Jane Fonda stars as an alcoholic film star who wakes up to find a murdered man lying next to her.

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## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am**
- 9.25 Motormouth.** Neil Buchanan, Gabby Roslin and Andy Crane present the Saturday morning show. This week's edition includes highlights of a charity football match between Steve Cram's All Stars and Frank Bruno's All Pros at Galeshead International Stadium
- 11.30 The ITV Chart Show.** The Vintage Video features Talking Heads, Anneke Giles, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Sarah Greene introduce the fashion magazine (r)
- 1.00 News** with Sue Carpenter. *Weather*
- 1.05 LWT News** and *Weather*
- 1.10 Saint & Greaves.** Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves look at the sporting action for the weekend
- 1.40 Sportsweek.** Dicky Davies with the first semi-final of the sports quiz
- 2.10 Rags To Riches.** American comedy starring Joseph Bologna as a millionaire with five wives and a daughter
- 3.05 Snooker.** Action from the second day of the best-of-35 frames World Matchplay final from Brentwood, Essex
- 4.45 Results Service** with Elton Wesley
- 5.00 News** with Sue Carpenter. *Weather*
- 5.05 LWT News** and *Weather*
- 5.15 Disney Cartoon Time**
- 5.30 The New Adventures of Black Beauty.** At Risk. Jenny goes to look at a neighbour's mare. The neighbour's husband is away, and when Jenny arrives she finds the wife has two horses - her baby has a dangerously high temperature and the mare is having problems foaling
- 6.00 Catchphrase.** The high-tech computer quiz hosted by Roy Walker

**6.30 Blind Date.** Television romance at its best as Cilla Black is joined by more than 100 suitors who display their own particular brand of flirtation in an attempt to be matched with a perfect partner and go on a dream date. (Oracle)

**7.30 Beadle's About.** The self-proclaimed master of mirth with another selection of juvenile japes

**8.00 Film: The Man With One Red Shoe (1985).** Tom Hanks as an innocent musician involved in a bizarre conspiracy. He is bugged, shadowed and very nearly killed by the clock-and-dagger antics of government agents and, through the whole process, remains blissfully unaware that something is awry. Despite the talented cast, this remake of the French comedy *The Tall Blond Man With One Black Shoe* is a tepid affair, with Hanks never allowed to display the full range of his comic talents. With Delaney Coogan, Carrie Fisher and Lori Singer. Directed by Stan Dragoti

**9.45 News** with Sue Carpenter. *Sport* and *Weather* 10.00 *LWT Weather*

**10.05 A Night On Mount Edna.** CHOICE: The Dame Edna Everage Christmas special comes from Switzerland, or rather a studio mock-up of Switzerland, and follows the now familiar format of sending up the traditional carol show. Instead of being invited to plug their latest books, films and whatever, the guests are there to be insulted and humiliated. Their function is to feed Dame Edna's jokes, mocking their own celebrity status to play fall to a drag queen. Among those prepared to make fools of themselves tonight are Mel Gibson, Julie Iglesias and (not for the first time in Dame Edna's company) Charlton Heston. In moderate doses, and not



Game for a laugh: Edna meets Gina (10.05pm)

repeated too often, the formula works a treat. Barry Humphries is one of the best dames around and a very funny ad-libber but he can outstep his welcome. Tonight's feature, which also includes the joke of a guest who fails to appear, is just about right. (Oracle)

**11.05 Snooker.** The climax of the final of the World Matchplay, introduced by Tony Francis from Brentwood, Essex

**12.30am Terrence Higgins Trust Concert - Life Serenades.** A charity recording from Brentwood Academy with artists including Bill Bragg, Everything But The Girl, Jools Holland, Mica Paris and Marc Almond. Followed by News headlines

**2.00 The Time Tunnel: The Death Merchant.** Tony and Doug land in Germany and discover they are on different sides during the civil war

**3.00 American College Football.** Clemson v South Carolina

**4.00 The Hit Man And Her** presented by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan. Another edition of the pop until you drop late-night/bearly morning shindig

**5.10 ITN Morning News** with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Comic Book** 7.30 *News* 7.35 *International Times* 8.00 *Transworld Sport*
- 9.00 News** 9.05 *Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line*
- 9.25 Sing and Swing.** Jazz from the music of the Thirties and Forties (r)
- 9.30 Same Difference (r).** (Teletext)
- 10.00 To Norway - Home of Giants.** An irreverent look at Norwegian life through the eyes of John Cleese who visits Norway to trace his Viking origins
- 10.30 Film: The Courtship of Andy Hardy (1942, b/w).** One of the series of low-budget Andy Hardy films, produced by MGM, which were very successful just before and during the second world war. Starring Mickey Rooney as Andy and Donna Reed, who went on to play Miss Elsie in *Delia's*. Directed by George Seaton. 12.15 *The Singles.* Canadian cartoon about cats
- 12.30 American Football: Red 42 (r)**
- 1.00 Two Men in a Marsh.** Malcolm Muggeridge, who died last month, is seen in the summer of 1987 on a stroll around Romney Marsh with poet and landscape painter John Constable
- 2.00 Film: Major Barbara (1941, b/w).** Polished screen version of George Bernard Shaw's 1905 social comedy about the daughter (Wendy Hiller) of a munitions manufacturer (Robert Morley) who joins the Salvation Army and then resigns when it accepts a donation from her father. Along the way she picks up an admirer, the shape of Rex Harrison's Greek professor. Shaw's wit sparkles through the acid social comment and the performances are excellent. The first in a Rex Harrison season. Directed by Gabriel Pascal

**4.30 Film: The Idle Class (1921, b/w).** Charlie Chaplin is in trouble with the police who get chased by a society party. It just happens that one of the wealthy revelers is his double, and a confusion of identity follows. Directed by Chaplin, with more than 100 extras, this is a slapstick masterpiece. (Teletext)

**5.10 Broccoli Omnibus (r).** (Teletext)

**6.30 Right To Reply.** A bookmaker criticises the Dispatches programme on horse race betting

**7.00 The World This Week.** Includes a report from the Rome summit. *Weather*

**The Journey that clocked £31,446 (8.00pm)**

**8.00 Adventure: A Fare To Remember.** CHOICE: Taking a break from strenuous accounts of exploration in forbidding landscapes, *Adventures* presents a light-hearted account of how two City of London bankers, John Morgan and "Ned" Kelly, travelled from Britain to Australia in a fast. Their motives were a mixture of long-held ambition, a desire to make the Guinness Book of Records and fundraising for charity. Morgan, a Welshman, and Kelly, an Irishman, were driven by a London cabby, Guy Smith, and a young Australian woman called Kanelli. The film crew was presumably not far behind. The cab's

progress through Europe is compressed into a few minutes and most of the footage is reserved for less familiar terrain in Iran, Pakistan and India. Despite the odd breakdown and having to sleep rough, the quartet maintains a steady flow of wisecracks and managed to charm the locals at every turn. For the record, the final total on the clock was £31,446. (Teletext)

**9.00 LA Law.** American drama series about a slick Los Angeles law firm

**10.00 CHOICE: Bernardo Bertolucci's** panorama of Italian peasant life between 1900 and 1945 is a film of enormous ambition which tries to set a particular and personal society against the history of a country through two world wars and the rise of fascism. It is the most ambitious film, partly because the characters come across as types rather than individuals, there is much to admire along the way. Bertolucci has taken immense care with the look of the film, which often has the qualities of classical painting, and the mood is not so much a comedy as a tragedy. On its first showing here, the film was mostly dubbed and heavily edited. This is the full version, with part two being shown next Saturday, and it is sub-titled

**1.00am The Week with Jonathan Ross.** Highlights from this week's *Tonight with Jonathan Ross*

**1.30 Snooks.** Mystery drama about a high-flying couple based in Washington

**2.25 The World (r).** Ends at 3.20

## BBC 2

- 9.00 Film: Le Mans (1971).** Steve McQueen indulging his hobby as he battles for the laurels in the glamorous and dangerous world of motor racing. Directed by Lee H. Katzin. (Ceefax)
- 10.45 The Sky at Night: ROSAT - a Space Telescope (r).** (Ceefax)
- 11.05 Pitfalls of a Sporting Life.** How to reduce injuries from sport (r)
- 11.20 The Balloon.** The first flight of the series looks down on Albuquerque, New Mexico (r)
- 11.50 The Honeymooners (b/w).** Jackie Gleason and Art Carney in some vintage, wise-cracking American comedy
- 12.15 Film: The Day They Gave Babies Away (1957).** Sentimental story of two penniless Scottish immigrants who go to America to start a new life and train their six children to carry on after their deaths. Stars Glynis Johns and Cameron Mitchell. Directed by Alan Reisner
- 1.55 Discoveries Underwater: Science.** Salvage on the seabed? Should money be found to preserve the many underwater discoveries made in recent years or should they be left to rust away? (r) (Ceefax)
- 2.45 Mahabharat.** Episode 31 of the 91-part Indian epic. (Hindi with English subtitles)
- 3.25 Isaac in America.** Nobel Prize-winning writer Isaac Bashevis Singer takes a journey through his past (r)
- 4.20 Animation Now: The Rose and the Ring** animated by Lotte Reiniger (r)
- 4.40 Tennis.** The semi-final of the Grand Slam Cup from Munich
- 5.55 Cricket.** Highlights of England's World Series Cup match against New Zealand in Brisbane
- 6.40 News** presented by Moira Stuart and Lynette Lithgow. *Weather*
- 7.25 Assignment Special: What Price Peace?** John Tusa hosts a discussion about the possibility of war with Iraq

Among those taking part are Tony Benn, MP, Dr Rehana Ali-Sabah, a member of the Kuwaiti royal family, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley and the Rt Rev William Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough

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## MTV

- 12.00 The Astral Station.** Twenty-four hours of rock and pop
- LIFESTYLE**
- 12.00 Captain Power.** 12.30 *Wipeout* 1.00 *The Morning After* (1986) Jane Fonda stars as an alcoholic film star who wakes up to find a murdered man lying next to her
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## ITV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
- As London except:** 12.30pm *La Dureche* 12.40 *Ant* 1.00 *News* 1.10 *Ant* 1.20 *Ant* 1.30 *Ant* 1.40 *Ant* 1.50 *Ant* 2.00 *Ant* 2.10 *Ant* 2.20 *Ant* 2.30 *Ant* 2.40 *Ant* 2.50 *Ant* 3.00 *Ant* 3.10 *Ant* 3.20 *Ant* 3.30 *Ant* 3.40 *Ant* 3.50 *Ant* 4.00 *Ant* 4.10 *Ant* 4.20 *Ant* 4.30 *Ant* 4.40 *Ant* 4.50 *Ant* 5.00 *Ant* 5.10 *Ant* 5.20 *Ant* 5.30 *Ant* 5.40 *Ant* 5.50 *Ant* 6.00 *Ant* 6.10 *Ant* 6.20 *Ant* 6.30 *Ant* 6.40 *Ant* 6.50 *Ant* 7.00 *Ant* 7.10 *Ant* 7.20 *Ant* 7.30 *Ant* 7.40 *Ant* 7.50 *Ant* 8.00 *Ant* 8.10 *Ant* 8.20 *Ant* 8.30 *Ant* 8.40 *Ant* 8.50 *Ant* 9.00 *Ant* 9.10 *Ant* 9.20 *Ant* 9.30 *Ant* 9.40 *Ant* 9.50 *Ant* 10.00 *Ant* 10.10 *Ant* 10.20 *Ant* 10.30 *Ant* 10.40 *Ant* 10.50 *Ant* 11.00 *Ant* 11.10 *Ant* 11.20 *Ant* 11.30 *Ant* 11.40 *Ant* 11.50 *Ant* 12.00 *Ant* 12.10 *Ant* 12.20 *Ant* 12.30 *Ant* 12.40 *Ant* 12.50 *Ant* 1.00 *Ant* 1.10 *Ant* 1.20 *Ant* 1.30 *Ant* 1.40 *Ant* 1.50 *Ant* 2.00 *Ant* 2.10 *Ant* 2.20 *Ant* 2.30 *Ant* 2.40 *Ant* 2.50 *Ant* 3.00 *Ant* 3.10 *Ant* 3.20 *Ant* 3.30 *Ant* 3.40 *Ant* 3.50 *Ant* 4.00 *Ant* 4.10 *Ant* 4.20 *Ant* 4.30 *Ant* 4.40 *Ant* 4.50 *Ant* 5.00 *Ant* 5.10 *Ant* 5.20 *Ant* 5.30 *Ant* 5.40 *Ant* 5.50 *Ant* 6.00 *Ant* 6.10 *Ant* 6.20 *Ant* 6.30 *Ant* 6.40 *Ant* 6.50 *Ant* 7.00 *Ant* 7.10 *Ant* 7.20 *Ant* 7.30 *Ant* 7.40 *Ant* 7.50 *Ant* 8.00 *Ant* 8.10 *Ant* 8.20 *Ant* 8.30 *Ant* 8.40 *Ant* 8.50 *Ant* 9.00 *Ant* 9.10











SPORT 27-33  
BUSINESS AND FINANCE 34-39  
WEEKEND MONEY 40-44

# SPORT

## SUMMARY

### Serving notice



**PETE Sampras** (above), the US Open champion, beat Goran Ivanisevic in a quarter-final which brought the controversial Grand Slam Cup to life. The tournament, which is being played in Munich this week, has been criticised by the Association of Tennis Professionals as being no more than a "glorified exhibition".

Sampras and Ivanisevic, however, swept all the politics aside with a match of highly charged serve-and-volley tennis which thrilled the audience. *Andrew Longmore reports*.....Page 28

## SKIING

### Swiss role

**THE Swiss, Franz Heinzer**, won the second downhill of the World Cup season, held in Val Gardena, Italy yesterday. Second was Berni Huber, of Germany, whose performance belied a recent knee injury. *Report*.....Page 32

## SPORT ON TV

### Viewing figure



**TEN million people** will tune in to BBC1 tomorrow night to discover who is the BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Such illustrious figures as Mary Peters (above), Bobby Moore, and Sebastian Coe, have won in the past but tomorrow, the BBC reveals a new format.....Page 28

## CRICKET

### Test signal

**NEEDING to win** of their four remaining World Series Cup matches to qualify to meet Australia in the finals next month, England play New Zealand today. But most thoughts are already on the second Test match which starts on Boxing Day at Melbourne.....Page 31

## SPORTS BOOKS

### Reading light

**WHAT are the best sports books of 1990?** Today *The Times* specialists on golf, tennis, rugby union, and motor sport, offer their selections.....Page 32

## GOLF

### Faldo's best



**NICK Faldo** (above) equalled his own best score and the course record when he shot a 62, nine under par, in the Asian Classic in Hong Kong yesterday. The record round gave him a three-stroke lead over the rest of the field. *Report*.....Page 31

## RACING

### Foreign field

**LANDYAP** and Pelorus will be the first English-trained runners to contest the £100,000 Invitation Cup over nine furlongs at Sha Tin, Hong Kong, tomorrow. Tony Ives, now based in the colony, rides Landypap for David Elsworth with Brian Rouse on Willie Jarvis's Pelorus in the 14-strong field.....Page 33

# True Blue pilots who rode out the storms of discord

**DONALD Macdonald** stood outside a television shop in the City of London on Tuesday afternoon and watched through the window as Oxford beat Cambridge in the University rugby match at Twickenham. As the referee blew the final whistle, the camera turned to the face of the Oxford captain, Mark Egan, for whom the match had been a personal triumph. His eyes were closed in elation and relief. It was an expression that Macdonald was uniquely placed to understand.

Nearly three years before, Macdonald had stood in the Oxford boat with a similar look on his face, having led his crew to success in the Boat Race. His triumph, like Egan's, was unexpected and came against a background of mutiny and strife.

On Thursday, Macdonald met Egan for the first time. Over dinner in Oxford, the two talked long into the night. Their conversation ranged back to the winter of 1986, when Macdonald, the president of the rowing club, had found himself at odds with the men who were expected to be the basis of his Boat Race crew. After prolonged arguments, some about whether Macdonald deserved his place in the boat, five Americans, Chris Clark, Dan Lyons, Chris Huntingdon, Chris Penny and Jon Fish, were dropped. Macdonald took a weakened crew into the Boat Race, and against all expectations, won in style.

Egan's story began in January 1990, when he beat Troy Coker by a single vote for the rugby captaincy after two rival camps had been established within the club. Subsequently, after Brian Smith, an Irish and Australian international, had arrived late back for a match, Egan had dropped him. Two Australians, Coker and Morgan Jones, the American international, Don James, and another American, Gary Heia, became involved. All were dropped from the Oxford squad by Egan for a tour of the Far East in September and only Hein regained his place. Once again Oxford were given little chance in the university encounter. Once again, they won.

Egan himself was not surprised. "The sight of five of our strongest forwards crying their eyes out in the dressing room before Tuesday's match confirmed my belief that the decision had been the right one. When I saw that I knew we would win. The spirit and togetherness were extraordinary."

Drawing inspiration from the story of Macdonald's lonely fight for the Dark Blue rowing club in 1987, chronicled in the book, *True Blue*, by Daniel Topolski, Oxford's coach that year, Egan steered himself to pursue a similar path.

His was a somewhat different challenge. "Our conflict was about my desire to have only those who would show total commitment to the club in my team," Egan said. "Brian Smith had said he wanted to play for Leicester as well as Oxford. My answer was it was all for us or not at all. Overseas students who come to Oxford must devote themselves to the rugby club. Like Donald, enforce-

**Oxford's surprise victory in the University rugby match this week came, like the Boat Race triumph in 1987, after a mutiny. The men who steered their teams through troubled waters to ultimate success met for the first time on Thursday. Peter Bills joined them**

ing that belief involved much pain. Facing the overseas players and telling them what I felt was a horrible experience, the worst thing I have ever had to do."

Macdonald recognised the position. He said: "Above all, I suppose I had sought the values which Mark now wished to emulate. Throughout our difficult year there was this feeling of 'don't upset the Americans'. But with them in the boat we had eight individuals rather than a team with camaraderie. When we left them out, the side we picked focused on the same objective, a deep conviction that we would win. It was for the honour of our university, the glory of the club. And once the decision had been taken at that point it became subtle. You cannot explain it really; I just woke up one day and thought we are going to do it."

Egan does not think he suffered the personal hurt inflicted upon Macdonald. No one told Egan, as they told Macdonald, that he was not good enough for the side. "Even in the worst times I always felt a warmth from those close to me: the coach, the secretary and fellow players," Egan said. "The worst moment came when we were losing one of those six matches [out of seven] in the Hilary term from January to March. I felt so lonely, so distraught, it would have been easy to call up the overseas internationals and we would have ended the torment by winning a couple of matches. But then I would have been fighting my conscience."

For Macdonald, circumstances were slightly different. "We had thrown down the gauntlet and had to trust our judgment. It became, for three weeks, a matter of pure survival. Other people were trying to take control of the club and I had to respond to it. In those circumstances, as with Mark, you must have a clear conviction because there are constant doubts."

Egan's felt his first and greatest responsibility was to the rugby undergraduate burning with ambition to win a Blue. "After reading the book on the 1987 Boat Race mutiny it was always my belief that I needed 15 totally committed people rather than a side containing superstars, whose devotion I could not guarantee. I felt we had lost in 1989 because we had the stars but not the team spirit. Certainly, overseas players had helped Oxford to victories in



Masters of intrigue: Egan (left) and Macdonald toast their successes under a portrait of the second Duke of Buckingham, George Villiers, at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford on Thursday

1986 and 1988 but while the wins were great for a year or two people increasingly asked what had happened to the club.

"When I became captain I insisted on total participation. I would have gone into the university match with 14 unknown undergraduates because I felt the principle was worth sticking by." Macdonald took a similar view. "The overseas guys at Oxford have a real responsibility. They cannot just come here and take without giving. This is where the problems arise. Our problem was much more political and it became very ugly. Suddenly these guys saw mutiny as the best possible solution. But there are parallels here: it was like *Mutiny on the Bounty*."

The lowest point for Macdonald

was not the arguments or the fights. It was the realisation that supposedly strong men were reneging on promises of support. "I realised at that point I was pretty much alone with no one to turn to. But people all over the world were writing to me saying 'don't cave in'."

Egan said: "To have won at the end of it all and now to have had the chance to talk it through with Donald is something of a farcical for me. We both stood for certain values and won against the odds. The details were different but the principles were similar. Perhaps we have blown away this myth that the Varsity match or Boat Race is down to individuals. I have nothing against Australians or Americans but I do feel they need to understand the value of

commitment to the general cause."

And the final, triumphant moments made the sacrifices seem worthwhile. "The sense of elation and joy was one I expect to experience again only in the after-life," Egan said.

"His story is the same as mine, one of triumph of conviction," Macdonald added. "But you can only truly understand this passion if you have been through it. We are talking about intangible things like desire, team spirit and will to win. Money or reputation can never achieve those things."

Rowing trials, page 30

# Barnes may be staying

By CLIVE WHITE

**JOHN Barnes** could yet remain a Liverpool player beyond the end of this season when his contract expires. Barnes, who has repeatedly expressed a wish to play abroad, confirmed yesterday that he has reopened negotiations with the club.

Barnes had hitherto declined to make any decision about his long-term future despite being offered one of the most lucrative contracts in the club's history. But discussions have finally got under way this week with Kenny Dalglish, the manager, and Noel White, the chairman.

Liverpool, who could receive in excess of £5 million for Barnes if he was sold while under contract, would get no more than £1.5m, the UEFA maximum - if he was transferred while out of contract.

It is just as well, from Liverpool's point of view, that they have discovered an exciting new forward talent in Steve McManaman, who made an impressive appearance recently for the England under-21 side. McManaman has been included in their squad to play Sheffield United, the bottom club, at Anfield today.

Dave Bassett, the United manager, must be cursing his luck. Just when he fancied his side's chances of avoiding an unwelcome inclusion in the record books - that of equalling Hull City's wretched start to last season of 16 League matches without a win - last week's game at home to Derby County was postponed. Now even United would have to admit that they are odds-on to keep Hull conversely.

Conversely, the postponement of Liverpool's game away to Nottingham Forest meant that they could begin their rehabilitation after the Highbury setback at home, which even Dalglish had to concede was a blessing. "You couldn't ask for a better place to get help than here," he said.

Howard Kendall, having secured his first win last week since picking up the reins again over at Goodison Park, will be seeking his first away win against Leeds United at Elland Road in tomorrow's televised game. Without Milligan and Hinchcliffe, that could be almost as tall an order for Everton as for Sheffield United. Kendall watched Leeds, unbeaten in nine games, humiliate Queen's Park Rangers recently which could not have been much good for his confidence. "They are well organised and very lively. Gordon Strachan is a marvellous player. He must be in contention for the player of the year award," he said.

Given the style with which Leeds are playing this season and Kendall's progressive outlook, it should make for enjoyable viewing in spite of the remarks this week of Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, that the public should not expect sportsmen to be entertainers, too.

Bonds mission, page 29

# The referee who saw red 12 times

**THE referee** is always right, or at least, he is when he penalises the other team. Refs have been having a good run of it lately, and Neil Webb's sending-off for his jocular attempted strangulation in Algeria on Tuesday was not the half of it. This column sends special congratulations to Giuseppe Lorenzo of Bologna, who was sent off after 10 seconds in an Italian league match last Sunday. The cry goes round: is this a record?

Lorenzo came on as a sub in the 72nd minute against Parma, as Bologna were about to take a corner. Before the kick was taken, the linesman told the ref that Lorenzo had elbowed someone while making his way onto the field. Off! (The English record is 20 seconds. It was set at a third division match between Wrexham and Hull on Christmas Day 1936).

However, the ref of the recent match between Toledo Imperial and Gamonal did much better. He sent off the entire Gamonal team. The ref, Pedro Castaneda (a name that lapsed hippies will forever associate with the Yaqui Way of Knowledge), began by sending off one Toledo player and two from Gamonal for chucking mud at each other. It all hotted up when, after spectacular fouls on a defender and the goalie, Toledo scored their third goal.

Castaneda was surrounded by protesting players. Even Toledo said their goal was illegal. But the ref got out his red card and showed it to every one of the nine Gamonal players still on the pitch. Castaneda agreed afterwards that his action was "unusual", but added that he

## SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

had no choice "after I was insulted gravely".

### Umpire stumped

**A**nd on to cricket umpires. It is a tough job, standing in the Al Fatah tournament in Dubai. In a recent match, the umpire turned down an appeal, and was surrounded by protesting players. The match was being watched by a member of the cricket control who, by one of those Nostradamian coincidences, worked for the same company as the members of the protesting team. He walked on to the field and raised his finger decisively. The umpire's decision was reversed, and the batsman was out.

### San Siro sod's law

**S**an Siro stadium in Milan is probably the most dramatic in the world. A shame that the pitch is virtually unplayable, as Aston-Villa found out when they paid a losing visit there in the UEFA Cup. The blame has been placed on the construction of a third tier of precipitous seating, which turns the stadium into a kind of quadruple cliff face. But people were forced to look elsewhere when the same problems affected the pitch at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. The problem is not - or not just - the high stands blocking off the sun and preventing the sun from reaching the pitch. The real problem is sand. The turf is laid on sand from the River Po, sand which is furiously acidic, and prevents the grass from growing. Meanwhile, horrors have

overtaken the entrepreneurs in Rome who planned to flog off the pitch on which the World Cup final was played. They had the quaint notion of making a fat profit and then re-laying the pitch in a single month. They offered 301,000 turfs for sale, sold 1,000, the re-laying of the pitch has been a disaster and most of the people who paid for their chunks of sacred turf have not received them.

● **Bob Willis** - surely everyone's idea of the Oscar Wilde de nos jours - has, like Oscar, long been associated with *Cafe Royal*, from which he runs his International Luncheon Club. He is now involved in re-forming the National Sporting Club from that venue. The club it was that formulated the *Queensbury Rules*, another Wildean connection. Willis's plans include a Hall of Fame dinner at some future date, that will include the six greatest living sports people. Women will be allowed to become members for the first time. And he plans to reintroduce such delights of yore as fencing and boxing evenings.

### A team of toffs

**T**eam Nightmare marches on, and this week I present my third winner and my third bottle of ambrosial tawny port, *Calem Colheitas 1957*. I begin with a fine effort from Simon Rice, for which he receives the consolation prize described to me beguilingly, as "a carousel" of port. He writes, striking his typewriter keys with considerable force as he does so: "Here is my nightmare team: Atherton, Larkins, Gower, Smith, Lamb, Stewart, Russell, Lewis, Small, Malcolm, Hem-

mings." However, this week's nectar goes to Chris Freddi, who sends us an all-England posh eleven, every one of which won a full England cap. We start with a goalie and end with the forwards:

Ernald Oak Scattergood, Thelwell Mather Pike, Beaumont Griffith Jarrett, Brigadier Cecil Vernon Wingfield Stratford, General Sir William Bromley Davenport, Reginald de Courtenay-Welch, Errington Ridley Liddell Keen, Elphinstone Jackson, David Bone Nightingale Jack (captain), Horatio Stratton Carter, Robert Walpole Sealy Vidal, Subs: Claude Thesiger Ashton, Cuthbert James Burnup, Rupert Renorden Sandilands, Captain William Stanley Kenyon-Slaney, Morton Peto Betts.

Referee: Segal Richard Bastard. Mr Freddi assures me that this is the genuine name of a genuine referee, and who am I to argue with scholarship?

### Student kicks

**S**ix months ago, Arne Riepe saw the game of American football for the first time. Now he has set a record for the game. He has kicked 85 extra points this season for his high school, beating the previous record by four. Riepe is an exchange student from Germany at Hayesville High School in New Orleans. He has missed only three extra points all season. "I didn't really know what they were asking when they asked me to come out for football, but I said, OK. Why not?" The highest paid kicker in the National Football League is Morten Anderson, a Dane with New Orleans Saints, who gets half a million bucks a year. He too was an exchange student.

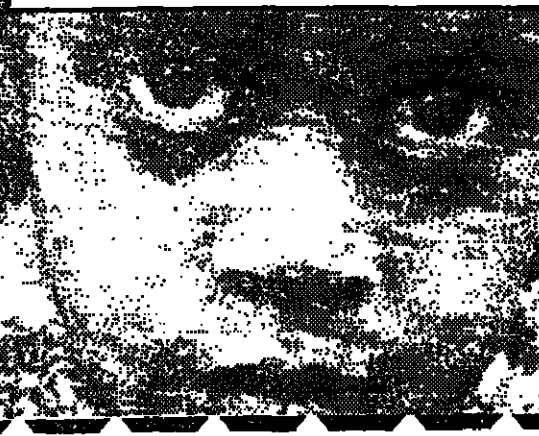
## SURVIVAL OR STARVATION?

How your £15 can help feed Mulu for the rest of her life...

Mulu is one of 30 orphans who have so far been saved from starvation by the Hope Centre Orphanage in Ethiopia.

Now we urgently need to raise £200,000 to build a dam at the orphanage so food can be grown and long term self-sufficiency achieved. If we fail, the children could all fall victim to the famines that have killed their parents and constantly threaten their lives.

Please, will you give £15 to help build the orphan's life-saving dam, and break the hopeless cycle of famine?



**YES** I want to help build the new dam, to break the cycle of famine and give the children a chance for the future.

I enclose my donation of (please tick):

☐ £15 ☐ £30 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 Other amount £.....

I enclose my cheque/postal order made out to EthiopiaAid, or please debit my MasterCard/Visa account (delete as applicable)

Amount No. ....

Expiry date .....

Signature ..... Date .....

Please complete the following details whether or not you are using your credit card. PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Please return your

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ETHIOPIAID, PRE-POST, 114

Peacock Street, Wincobur, SA1 1BB.

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# Bonds honesty is the best policy

FOOTBALL may have been more than a matter of life and death to Billy Bonds, but to Billy Bonds it is just a job, albeit the best one in the world. His attitude, even since moving into the precarious world of management, is unchanged from when he was a buccannery player: "Football always had and always will be of secondary importance to me," he said.

First in his life, as it is with many professional people, is his family. But few have the courage or honesty to state it quite so openly, for fear of being accused of lacking commitment. No youngster who ever trudged home behind Bonds (even when in his 40s) in a cross country race in training, let alone faced him on the field of combat, would ever have accused him of that.

Bonds has brought the same degree of dedication to his role as West Ham United manager as he did to a playing career embracing a record 858 senior appearances. Even if he still could, at the age of 44, he would not attempt to play. He still managed to divorce the increasing business from diminishing pleasure. "I never let football people come to my home," he said.

As a player, Bonds was renowned for his speed off the mark after the match rather than during it. "Sometimes at training he was gone before we even got in," John Lyall, his former manager and a colleague of 22 years, remarked. "I've never known the bloke to socialise at all."

One of his fellow players once commented: "I doubt if he even knows where the players bar is at Upton Park."

On the field, though, no player could have wished for more dependable colleague. Not for nothing did Volkswagen choose Bonds, 23 years a player, to promote the reliability aspect of their cars in the club's programme some years ago. Should honesty ever become a quality worth promoting again, then Bonds would be a perfect vehicle for that.

too — and he was honest enough to admit it.

"All the people I worked for — Bob Stokoe, Ron Greenwood, John Lyall — had one thing in common. Honesty. You knew where you stood with them. That's the way I try to manage. I like honesty. There's not a lot about now, but I do like it," Bonds said.

He never makes the mistake, though, of confusing modesty with honesty. For example, even though he never won an England cap as a player, he quite rightly thought of himself as such and would have been officially recognised as such had he not cracked a couple of ribs in 1981 just prior to an international against Brazil. "I doesn't bother me. I regard myself as an international. I'm not being big-headed, I just know I was good enough to play for England. That's all I need to know," he said.

Similarly, when asked to explain his idyllic start to his first full season in management, in which West Ham have gone 22 League games without defeat, he replied quite candidly: "I've been lucky."

Since succeeding Lou Macari in February, the team are also unbeaten at home, a record which comes under particularly close scrutiny today against a Middlesbrough side sporting the biggest goal difference away from home in the second division.

West Ham have much for which to be grateful to Lyall, their estranged manager. Had he not offered Bonds the position of youth team coach a few years ago, Bonds felt sure that he would have left the club and joined another lower down the League and carried on playing. "I was very happy to be youth team coach. As a matter of fact, I enjoyed it more than this job. I think it's the best in football," he said.

There was never any doubt that Bonds, who insists on being called Billy or Bonzo by the players, would immediately command the respect of those he had just previously played alongside, principally because he already had their utmost respect. Those who

doubted his tactical acumen did not know him.

"He was a very intelligent player," Lyall said. "You could readily leave it to him to make a tactical decision during the course of a game. His early days were spent under Ron Greenwood and you could not have had a better person from whom to learn about management."

His later days under Lyall must have been informative as well, but at a glance, it would seem that Bonds' installation as manager, thereby reviving continuity in that position, brought immediate stability to the club after its ill-fated seven-month association with Macari. Nevertheless, Bonds conceded that results might just as easily have gone badly.

He was at pains to point out, too, that West Ham never saw the real Macari. "I don't think Lou ever came here and was really himself, to be quite honest. I think he had so many things on his mind that he was happening down at Swindon," Bonds said.

As the new head of the Academy, Bonds is aware that his responsibility for upholding the club's tradition for good football, but in no way feels encumbered by it. He would play that way because he chose to, he said, but has warned the West Ham cognoscenti that the works of people like Brookings, Devonshire and Moore are not easily repeated.

Management was not a job which Bonds particularly craved. Until the day he stopped playing at the age of 41, he never thought further than his next appearance in the claret and blue. Even now, he said, he would find it harder to accept that he could not run and train any more than if he was suddenly to lose a job in football, deeply though he was indebted to it.

Sometimes he wished that every player started off his career, as he did, on a factory floor. Then perhaps, Bonds said, he would be more appreciative of what he has — the best job in the world.



Head of the Academy: manager Bonds casts a keen eye over training

## O'Leary's Venables keeps the formula Stadium problems mount for Bath

By LOUISE TAYLOR

FOOTBALL is no longer an 11-a-side game. That is not the latest dictate from those members of FIFA frustrated at their failure to get the goalsposts widened, but the view of Terry Venables.

Asked by frequent inquisitions as to why Paul Walsh is constantly stuck on the substitutes' bench, the Tottenham Hotspur manager yesterday said: "Football these days is very much a 13-man game. It has been that way on the Continent for many years. Over there, they sometimes start the match with their best player on the bench."

"This can often have a more explosive effect when they do come on. Continental players seem to accept this more readily than some in this country."

Presumably that was a dig at Walsh, who was unhappy to learn that he will once again start on the bench at Manchester City today. It seems rough justice on a player who on several occasions this season has scored decisive goals for Tottenham minutes after making a late entrance. Last Saturday, for example, Tottenham were trailing 2-0 at home to Sunderland before two second-half goals from Walsh contributed to a final score of 3-3.

But Venables is convinced that he has found a way of making three go into two. "If I have not been playing Walsh, then how come he has scored so many goals and been so effective? He finds the situation frustrating, but I have three players (Walsh, Gary Lineker, and Paul Stewart) all pushing each other very hard, and that is very healthy."

Providing Arsenal avert defeat at home to Wimbledon today, they will equal their best beginning to a season, set in 1947-48. Then, the side captained by Joe Mercer went 17 first division matches unbeaten before losing to Derby County. They continued to lead the table for the entire season. However, after winning their last four games, Wimbledon have different ideas.

West Ham United are unbeaten in their last 20 second division encounters, a sequence which leaves them five points clear at the top. But Middlesbrough, today's visitors at Upton Park, are the League's leading scorers away from home, with 21 goals, have won six times on their travels, stand fourth, and are the club whose win in the East End two seasons ago committed West Ham to the second division.

The club's hopes of rebuilding its stand before the end of the season have been stalled because the loss adjusters have yet to complete their tasks. Britton said: "You can't hold the fire responsible for defects on the pitch but it has had an effect because it's gone on so long. Both Bath and Bristol Rovers, their tenants, have suffered severe loss of revenue."

Paul Compton, the Weymouth player-manager, resigned this week after four months, because the financial problems of the bottom club in the Beazer Homes premier division imposed unacceptable restraints upon his work.

Doug Fawcett, the chairman of Chelmsford City, survived an attempt to vote him off the board at a shareholders' meeting on Thursday night. His position was under threat from a group of shareholders who had blocked a proposed rescue package set up by Fawcett.

Professor Stuart Timperley, the chairman of the London Business School, the barrister, Stuart Lawson Rogers, and Charles Lissack, an estate agent, have been appointed directors of Watford.

The Coventry City player-manager, Terry Butcher, yesterday completed his managerial team with the appointment of Brian Eastick as reserve team manager, replacing Terry Payne, who is to leave the club.

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To do so, an application needs to reach the British Cycling Federation by December 31 and he will be automatically eligible for competition from April 1. The BCF confirmed yesterday that it had provided Curran with all the information to help him make a decision.

Before joining the cash ranks Curran had won British titles on the road and track riding for the Manchester Wheelers. The club's sponsor, Jack Fletcher, said that if Curran chose to revert he would be welcome to race in their colours again.

He would be eligible for national championships but as a former pro could not compete in the Olympic and Commonwealth Games or world championships. Yesterday, Curran said he intended to continue racing next year in whatever category was open to him.

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A Swiss skier flies to victory in the downhill but the smiles beam out in the Norwegian camp

# Heinzer emerges from the shadows

FROM BRIAN JAMES  
VAL GARDENA

OUT from the dark shadow of the Sassolungo, a soaring yellow tooth of rock which brave men climb by their fingertips, Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, flew on the very edges of his skiing yesterday to win the second downhill of this World Cup season. It was a victory many had predicted, and for which a sovereign's escort of Swiss cow-bell ringers had invaded Italy at daylight.

The Sassolungo, traditionally a dramatic backdrop, was yesterday to play a role. Once the race had been given an unusually late start time, 12.45pm, and then delayed a further 15 minutes after one of the outsiders sent down to set the course had fallen, there was no chance that the race could be run in sunshine. And it is the sun, warming the unshadowed piste, which explains the number of late-starting runners who have often sprinted surprisingly into the event's history.

Not so yesterday. Nobodies were nowhere, the unfancied went unseen. Behind Heinzer, a 28-year-old with four World Cup downhill titles, came a long record, came a long record, came a long record.

Huber, the German's lowly 24th place in the running order is explained by a serious operation on a wrecked knee: he too has past form that includes seven finishes among World Cup points.

If the shade from that mesmeric hill played some role, there are skiers who believe that it is the disappearance of another shadow, that of the just-retired Pirmin Zurbriggen, that is crucial in the emergence of Franz Heinzer. Graham Bell, of Britain, is among them.

"Franz is a brilliant skier. And was. But while Zurbriggen was about, the Swiss couldn't see beyond him. Now they are all around Heinzer, and I think you see what this is doing for him," Bell said.

Heinzer said: "Last year I was second here, behind Zurbriggen. It was time for me to show I am still able to be fastest downhill. I expect to excel this season. I have changed my attitude. I am more ambitious. More determined. Too often I have missed medals."

Then he went off to troop his huge grin along the ranks of his uniformed fan club, hanging over the fence with their nationalistic banners. None of this, however, prevented the corner of Italian soil that held the largest number of smiles per metre being that of the racers' enclosure colonised by the Norwegians. Until Heinzer, looking in his yellow-and-scarlet costume like a plate of high-velocity plums and custard, had arrived, Atle Skardal, held first place. He was to finish third, with another of Norway's blond shock-troops, Lasse Arnesen, fourth, a best placing for him.

The belief among this team is towering. Without for a second sounding brash, Arnesen, a civil engineering student from Oslo, aged 25, spoke of "the boom" in alpine skiing which now dominates much Norwegian sport.

"Everything is good and going better. We have such a great mood in training, we push each other. When I was first in practice the other day that meant I was for that day the best in the world. That is marvellous to think of," he said.

Told that Norway's coach had said that five of his seven skiers were capable of a World Cup victory, Arnesen, thought hard, and agreed. Was he one? "On the day I am 100 per cent, yes. Today I was 98."

"Today," Skardal said, "the course was perfect. But from me there is more to come. Maybe tomorrow?"

That is literally true. For this race was something of an oddity, accepted by Val Gardena when the first-choice venue, in Argentina, had to withdraw. So this corner of Italy gets another race - that awarded it originally - today,

when the same men face the same test, with some hoping for different weather.

A few degrees shift of temperature could be vital, for there is so little to choose between them. One second covers the finish-time of the best 12, two seconds stretches from Heinzer to his fellow-Swiss, Fahner, in 27th place.

So Graham Bell was not just demonstrating a Briton's supposed national preoccupation when he murmured: "Let it warm up. Please, please." It is all about skis. The Austrian firm, Fischer, supply the Bell brothers with their skis. But they also supply many of the leading national teams, not necessarily with the same equipment, no matter what it says on the logo.

This is a tricky area, for no team dares to bite the hands that have shod them. But Graham Bell said: "Look around the finish enclosure. Half the best men are on Fischer skis. That is because they are good. But there are only a finite number of the best. The Canadians are unhappy. They are using two-year-old skis."

"I skied well, and I am sick about my time. Three seconds off. That's rubbish. Today I saw the sun, so I was on the warm-up skis I did well with at Cortina and last year. It did not work out, so now it's back to the drawing board."

RESULTS: 1. F. Heinzer (Switz), 2. Atle Skardal (Nor), 3. L. Arnesen (Nor), 4. P. Fischler (Ger), 5. D. Mader (Aust), 6. H. Zurbriggen (Switz), 7. M. Haring (Switz), 8. R. Bode (Ger), 9. K. Gundersen (Nor), 10. W. Bensch (Switz), 20.11. British pairings: equal 28, G. Bell, 29.22, 40, R. Lueders (Aust), 3. Zurbriggen, 22, 23, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Overall positions after six events: 1. Heinzer, 2. Skardal, 3. Arnesen, 4. Fischler, 5. Mader, 6. Zurbriggen, 7. Haring, 8. Bode, 9. Gundersen, 10. Bensch, 20.11. British pairings: equal 28, G. Bell, 29.22, 40, R. Lueders (Aust), 3. Zurbriggen, 22, 23, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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Snow wonder: Heinzer on his way to triumph in yesterday's World Cup downhill

## RACING

# English raiders face stiff task

FROM GRAHAM ROCK IN HONG KONG

LANDYAP and Pelorus, representing England for the first time in the Hong Kong Invitation Cup, face stern opposition at Sha Tin tomorrow when the New Zealand-trained Kessem should start a warm favourite.

David Elsworth will be blinkered for the first time on Landyap, ridden by Tony Ives, and the combination should fare better than Pelorus and Brian Rouse in this well-contested race worth £100,000 to the winner.

Mister Riv was runner-up to Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Saumarez in the group three Prix du Prince d'Orange at Longchamp in September, but he has not been working as well as the useful Milieu, trained by Dermot Weld, in Ireland.

Mister Riv might find this 1,600 metres (about nine furlongs) too sharp but Milieu's best form is at a mile. His stamina will be tested in what should be a strongly run race.

Kessem has impressed in his preparation and the New Zealand gelding has the best public form, with several useful performances to his credit in Australia. He won a group three race at Caulfield in October, followed by a good fourth to the Japan Cup winner Better Losen Up in the group one LKS Mackinnon Stakes at Flemington recently.

Brian Smith, Kessem's trainer, rates him in the same class as his sire, the 1977 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe second Balmerino. The Australian-trained Livistona Lane is the winner of six races at home and holds best of the remainder but in front of an expected 75,000 crowd Kessem should be the one to be on with Milieu a possible danger if he lasts home.

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## Cheltenham fence will be altered

CHELTENHAM'S controversial third-last fence is to be built up on the landing side in an attempt to reduce the number of casualties there. The construction and position of the obstacle, the thirteenth on the Old Course, came under review after two horses, Buckfast Abbey and Alcaudon, were killed during the Mackeson Gold Cup meeting in November.

Champion jockey Peter Scudamore was among a number of trainers and racecourse officials who met at the track yesterday to consider what alterations, if any, were needed.

The alternatives were to leave the fence as it is, re-site it 100 yards back, introduce an extra fence 100 yards back or build up the landing side for about 30 yards to eliminate the drop and falling away of the ground in the first three strides.

Scudamore, supported by Toby Balding, David Nicholson and Jim Wilson, made the point that serious mistakes were rare, but that falls were caused by the inability of horses to recover from minor errors.

Clerk of the Course Philip Arkwright said: "It was unanimously agreed that there was nothing wrong with the construction of the fence. We considered that moving it back 100 yards might introduce a new problem of horses approaching the following fence at faster speed, thus simply transferring the danger from one fence to another."

"The idea of introducing a new fence 100 yards back from the existing site found some favour, but it was not thought that this should be taken as a first step."

The landing area will be generously sanded before the 1991 Festival and the remedial work carried out after the meeting.

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## Cyclist's tour de force

By JOHN GOODBODY

MOST sports autobiographies are by celebrated figures. They rely more on the name of the individual to attract sales than any insights the books could provide. It is rare for a sportsman, unaided by an experienced writer, to have the courage, as Arthur Millar, the American playwright, said, to let himself be known.

An exception is *A Rough Ride*, voted the William Hill sports book of 1990, which discloses the uncertainties of a professional cyclist. Its author, Paul Kimmage, now a journalist, depicts the tensions of racing on the Continent, particularly in the Tour de France.

If you think it is tough at the top of cycling, it is clearly even tougher at the bottom. The arduous world of professional riding, day in and day out, with all its jealousies and uncertainties, makes this book a useful record of sporting portraiture.

Denis Howell has also been subjected to pressures. However, what emerges from his autobiography is a man immersed in both sport and politics, and particularly sporting politics. Of the ministers for sport Britain has had over the last 26 years only Colin Moynihan, an Olympic competitor, and Howell, who has been a referee, has experienced top-class sport from the inside.

Howell consolidated the post for a minister but clearly regrets that it never had the status and responsibilities of a minister in other departments. The opposing view is put in the book by John Coghlan who, as a former deputy director of the Sports Council, understandably argues against direct government control.

Richard Holt, a university lecturer, has already made a massive contribution to the documentation of British sport with his volume *Sport and The British: A Modern History*, published in 1989. This year he has edited a book of essays of an unusual range. Perhaps the most intriguing is the chapter on Welsh boxers, depicting the impact of men like Jimmy Wilde and Tommy Farr on the mining community.

*A Rough Ride*, by Kimmage (Stanley Paul, £12.95); *Made In Birmingham*, Denis Howell (MacDonald-Queen Anne Press, £14.95); *Sport And British Politics Since 1960*, John Coghlan with Ida Webb (Falmer Press, £12.95); *Sport And The Working Class In Modern Britain*, edited by Richard Holt (Manchester University Press, £29.95).

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## History of British Isles tours a valuable reference work

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

W hat threatened to be a dull year in rugby union was rescued by the Lions. Not that the British Isles tour in 1990, but John Griffiths' book, which affords with the game's history knows few boundaries, followed his comprehensive volume on international rugby records with *British Lions*, a chronicle of combined British touring sides from 1880 to 1989.

Griffiths, statistician to the international rugby *Rugby Yearbook*, follows a similar formula to his earlier work but permits himself greater scope for writing. He sketches the detail of the pre-first world war touring sides, but the first part of the book is devoted to the tour as the Lions was that of 1930 to New Zealand and Australia, when the players wore blue jerseys with a crest of three gold lions, and distributed gold-plated Lions brooches.

The brooches still exist but the jerseys changed to red in 1938 - to avoid a clash with the all black of New Zealand. The Lions developed a reputation during the 1950s as the most attractive of touring teams and Griffiths charts a decade of peace, the peaks and troughs of the post-war Lions, offering anecdotal pen portraits of all those who played in more than one international match. The book is full of such players as Cliff Morgan and Tony O'Reilly, who have gone on to find fame in other fields, stare out of the splendidly-illustrated pages of a book certain to make a major work of reference.

Indeed, *British Lions* could usefully be conjoined in conjunction with *60 Years of the Lions*.

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## WALL STREET

## Dow under pressure

New York  
BLUE chips were under pressure in morning trading as investors declined to buy amid further signs that the American economy is slipping into a recession.  
The Dow Jones industrial average was 9.66 lower at 2,604.70. November producer prices rose more than expected, while industrial production and capacity usage fell more than feared.  
● Tokyo — Stocks finished

lower after the heaviest turnover in nearly two months.  
The Nikkei index was down 293.47 points, or 1.19 per cent, at 24,349.50 with 800 million shares traded. But the Nikkei has shown a net advance on the week, rising 827.01 points.  
● Frankfurt — The Dax index closed 4.60 higher at 1,522.40. This is the first time the index has ended above 1,520 since September 17, when it closed at 1,541.15. (Reuters)

## STOCK MARKET

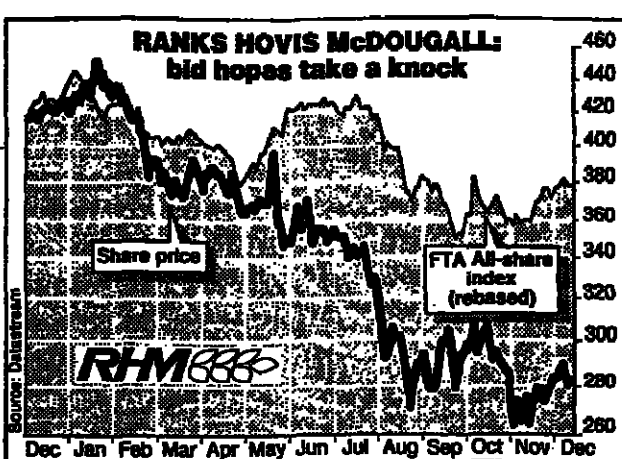
## Welsh Water buys 10% of South Wales Electricity

A SURGE of stake-building news and speculation revived interest in the freshly privatised electricity companies just as they started to lose their sparkle.

Welsh Water started the ball rolling by announcing that it had bought a 9.95 per cent stake in South Wales Electricity. Welsh Water is believed to have paid 161p a share for the 10.1 million partly-paid shares, estimated to be worth £16.78 million. The total cost of the shares would be about £40 million in their fully-paid form. Welsh Water said that it expected commercial benefits from closer operational links.

South Wales Electricity, which had no warning of the stake-building, hardly moved, adding only 1p at 165p, while Welsh Water slipped 1p to 282p after reporting interim pre-tax profits up from £60.4 million to £72.7 million. There were also claims that European companies have been quick off the mark in bidding for the privatised utilities.

Tractebel, the Belgian company, is believed to be buying shares in Yorkshire, 54p better at 159p in heavy turnover which saw 8.2 million shares traded, while Eastern 11p lower at 143p, after 146p, on



a volume of 4.2 million shares, is being linked with Lyonnaise des Eaux, a French group. Rises were also seen in East Midlands, 34p to 145p (3.9 million shares), London, 4p to 144p (6.4 million), Manchester, 12p to 171p (4.5 million), Midlands, 4p to 143p (3.8 million), Northern, 1p to 150p (3.3 million), Seeboard, 5p to 148p (3.7 million), Southern, 3p to 146p (6.1 million) and South West, 7p to 153p (4.1 million). The electricity package jumped £42 to £1,500.

The rest of the equity market spent a nervous day.

The latest retail prices index, showing inflation dropping below 10 per cent, was countered by some worse than expected figures for manufacturing output which demonstrated how deeply the recession was biting. Prices recovered from a nervous start, helped by more activity in the futures market. But the threat by President Bush to end the peace talks with Iraq saw Wall Street suffer an early, 35-point fall that also dragged London lower. The FT-SE 100 index closed 3.8 lower at 2,168.4, having been more than 12 points up. The FT index of 30

## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max Investment £	Notice	Contact
<b>BANKS</b>					
Ordinary Dep A/c	3.50	3.80	2.50	none/none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits					
Barclays	10.31	10.31	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-625 1567
Local Branch	10.44	10.44	2,500-no max	3 mth	071-625 1567
Lloyds	9.25	9.25	2,500-no max	6 mth	071-280 2805
Midland	9.16	9.16	10,000-no max	1 mth	071-280 2805
Northwest	9.00	9.00	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-728 1000
West	8.75	8.75	10,000-24,000	3 mth	071-728 1000
<b>HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS</b>					
Bank of Scotland M&C	9.47	9.50	7.92	2,500	none 031-442 7777
Barclays	9.50	9.54	7.87	2,500	none 0804 252881
Co-operative	8.00	8.20	4.98	2,500	none 071 628 5543
Ulster	8.00	8.20	4.40	1,000	none 051 966 2076
Lloyds M&C	8.00	8.20	4.50	500	none 0272 433372
Midland M&C	8.25	8.41	6.73	2,000	none
Northwest	8.00	8.24	6.59	500	none 071-374 3374
Special Reserve	8.95	9.26	7.41	2,500	none 031-558 8555
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.25	8.25	6.50	2,000	none 071-600 8000
<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>					
Ordinary Share A/c	8.15	8.15	4.92	1 mth	none
Best buy - largest assets					
Barclays	9.15	9.15	7.32	250 mth	none
Co-operative	9.75	9.75	7.90	2,500 mth	none
Cluttons & Co	11.50	11.50	9.40	10,000 mth	90 day
Midland	11.74	11.74	9.40	25,000 mth	1 year
Best buy - all assets					
Barclays	10.25	10.25	8.20	500 mth	none
Co-operative	10.75	10.75	8.50	10,000 mth	30 day
Cluttons & Co	11.50	11.50	9.40	10,000 mth	90 day
Midland	11.74	11.74	9.40	25,000 mth	1 year
<b>Cash/Cheque Accounts</b>					
Barclays	6.00	6.00	4.80	25 mth	Patron rate
Co-operative	6.00	6.00	4.80	500 mth	with larger
Ulster	6.00	6.00	4.80	1 mth	balance
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS</b>					
Ordinary A/c	5.50	5.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-648-4555
Investment A/c	5.50	5.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-648-4555
Income Bond	13.00	13.10	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-648-4555
Deposit Bond	13.00	13.10	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-648-4555
2nd Income Cert	9.50	9.50	5.50	25,000	14 day 061-385-4600
Yearly Plan	9.50	9.50	5.50	25,000	14 day 061-385-4600
Guaranteed Rate	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	5 yrs 041-648-4555
Capital Bond	13.00	13.10	8.10	100-100,000	5 yrs 041-648-4555
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>					
Barclays	10.40	10.40	8.84	5,000 mth	1 yrs 041-648-4555
Co-operative	10.40	10.40	8.84	5,000 mth	1 yrs 041-648-4555
Cluttons & Co	10.40	10.40	8.84	5,000 mth	1 yrs 041-648-4555
Midland	10.40	10.40	8.84	5,000 mth	1 yrs 041-648-4555
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## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
The World (free)	585.8	-0.8	-30.5	-0.5	-21.6	-1.0	-18.5
EAPE (free)	112.0	-0.8	-30.6	-0.6	-21.8	-1.0	-18.6
Europe (free)	1022.7	-0.7	-34.4	-0.6	-28.8	-1.1	-21.1
Europe (free)	105.1	-0.7	-34.5	-0.7	-28.9	-1.1	-21.3
Europe (free)	620.6	-0.3	-18.4	-0.3	-15.8	-0.8	-2.0
Europe (free)	134.3	-0.4	-17.8	-0.5	-15.5	-0.8	-1.3
Nth America (free)	415.3	-0.4	-22.8	-0.8	-7.2	-0.8	-7.3
Nth America (free)	1134.5	0.5	-27.1	0.4	-22.1	0.0	-12.4
Nth America (free)	187.2	0.7	-20.4	0.6	-15.4	0.2	-4.4
Nth America (free)	2248.9	-0.9	-43.3	-0.8	-38.6	-1.4	-31.8
Far East (free)	3233.2	-1.0	-43.6	-0.8	-37.3	-1.4	-32.2
Far East (free)	232.4	0.0	-33.1	-0.5	-17.0	-0.4	-19.6
Australia (free)	1409.2	-0.6	-5.2	-0.4	0.2	-1.0	-1.0
Australia (free)	720.8	-0.9	-26.8	-0.8	-23.8	-1.4	-14.4
Denmark (free)	420.0	-0.2	-30.1	-0.5	-15.7	-0.7	-10.7
Denmark (free)	1132.1	2.2	-14.0	2.1	-10.3	1.7	-10.3
Finland (free)	69.0	-0.3	-42.8	-0.3	-39.1	-0.7	-39.1
Finland (free)	85.1	-0.8	-40.9	-0.3	-37.1	-1.3	-37.1
Finland (free)	81.9	-1.7	-39.4	-1.8	-26.8	-2.2	-26.8
Germany (free)	750.4	-0.5	-18.2	-0.4	-13.7	-1.0	-13.7
Hong Kong (free)	1976.0	-0.4	-10.9	-0.9	-7.0	-0.9	-7.0
Japan (free)	275.6	0.6	-28.5	0.8	-24.0	0.2	-24.0
Japan (free)	3425.9	-1.0	-44.5	-0.8	-38.4	-1.5	-38.4
Netherlands (free)	7380.3	0.3	-22.0	0.4	-17.7	-0.1	-17.7
New Zealand (free)	62.3	0.3	-49.3	-0.5	-39.4	-0.1	-39.4
Norway (free)	1155.2	0.1	-13.9	0.1	-8.7	-0.4	-8.7
Norway (free)	202.2	-0.1	-13.5	-0.1	-8.2	-0.8	-8.2
Switzerland (free)	1446.7	0.2	-25.4	0.0	-19.1	-0.2	-19.1
Switzerland (free)	190.7	-0.6	-37.9	-0.8	-22.0	-1.1	-22.0
Sweden (free)	1989.3	0.1	-32.2	-0.2	-22.0	-0.9	-22.0
Sweden (free)	173.8	-0.5	-28.2	-0.6	-22.2	-0.9	-22.2
Switzerland (free)	725.8	-1.0	-20.6	-0.5	-21.1	-1.5	-21.1
Switzerland (free)	110.0	-1.3	-21.2	-0.8	-21.7	-1.7	-21.7
UK (free)	648.5	0.0	-10.1	0.0	-10.1	-0.5	-10.1
USA (free)	376.1	-0.4	-22.2	-0.8	-6.5	-0.8	-6.5

Source: Morgan Stanley Global Index



# Equiticorp blames UK bids for crash

From RICHARD LONG  
IN WELLINGTON

ALLAN Hawkins, the former Equiticorp chairman facing fraud charges, blamed his takeover activities in Britain for bringing down his high-flying company.

"Quite simply, we grew too fast," Mr Hawkins said, after he and six colleagues from the collapsed group appeared in court at Auckland on fraud charges totalling NZ\$440 million (£135 million).

"One of our major errors was moving to the UK because the investments were too big for us," he said.

Thousands of shareholders lost their savings when Equiticorp collapsed last year after a six-year worldwide buying spree that included a 61 per cent stake in GPG, the British merchant bank.

In court yesterday, Mr Hawkins, aged 48, and his former colleagues, facing an array of fraud charges, were granted bail to appear in the court for a pre-depositions conference on January 23. They had to surrender their passports.

One man had his name and occupation suppressed. The others were Maxwell Colin Taylor, aged 37, farmer; Ian Lindsay Gunthorpe, aged 26, company director; Kevin James Gillespie, aged 43, accountant; Russell John Curran, aged 27, financial assis-



Too fast: Allan Hawkins after the hearing yesterday

tant, and Grant Adams, aged 51, director.

When asked about the validity of the charges, Mr Hawkins replied: "I think they are, but quite simply, a load of rubbish."

Richard Craddock, a lawyer, said the charges against Mr Hawkins were "totally misconceived".

Lawyers for the group criticised the arrests, which followed an eight-month serious fraud office investigation, as "a blaze of publicity". They maintained that the SFO did not appear ready to proceed with a case.

Charles Sturt, SFO director, compared the scale of the enquiry with the Guinness affair and said further arrests could follow.

## Four years for broker in fraud

AN AUSTRALIAN stockbroker has been jailed for four years after being found guilty of an Aus\$3.2 million (£1.26 million) fraud.

Barry Pryor, aged 50, was executive director of Citicorp Securities Australia at the time of the offences, which began in 1982. Justice Ian Gray said in the Victoria Supreme Court in Melbourne.

Pryor had pleaded guilty to 35 charges including theft, obtaining property by deception and false accounting. In 1982 he stole Aus\$100,000 from a client's account to repay a loan on a property development which failed.

The client discovered the deception and put pressure on Pryor to recoup the money, which he did by inflating the proceeds of shares he sold on behalf of the client for several years. His firm discovered Pryor's activities in 1988.

## Bristol Post falls to £3m

Bristol Evening Post, the West Country newspaper group, has reported half-year profits hit by the downturn in advertising revenue. Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September fell 28 per cent to £3 million, with newspaper publishing profits tumbling 59 per cent to £1 million. Overall sales were marginally down at £31 million.

Andrew Breach, the chairman, said the company had suffered a £1.2 million fall in advertising revenue at a time when newspaper costs had risen by 3.2 per cent. Revenues from advertising "seem likely to remain depressed in the second half year", he said.

Profits from other divisions rose, with the exception of the film production. The 3.75p interim dividend is unchanged on last year.

## Scots 'escape'

Scotland will escape the worst of the company insolvency epidemic currently sweeping the rest of the United Kingdom, said Mr Robert Hynd, a business law solicitor with Harpers, the Glasgow firm.

He said: "Scotland will continue to fare better than the rest of Britain because most of our traditional heavy industries have already disappeared. We have suffered the pain of insolvency in past years and our company base is stronger and more efficient than it was a decade ago."

## Verdict on the power float bankers: could do better

The sale of the 12 regional electricity companies was, as the prime minister said, "a huge success". One in ten of the population put in 12.75 million applications for ten times as many shares as were available. Frank did a superb job, but the same cannot be said of the City, which received more than £50 million in fees and succeeded in underpricing the shares and embarrassing the government.

Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, was exaggerating when he said that "never in the history of human commerce has so much been paid out to so many for so little." But he had a point, and one that ought to have deflated the egos of merchant banks responsible effectively for setting the price. Allowing for the unpredictable shifts in stock market sentiment, they should have done better.

It will not be long before their judgment and feel for the market will again be put to the test. In February, the English generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, will be sold. The two Scottish companies, Hydro-Electric and ScottishPower, follow them on the block in May/June. National Power and PowerGen are expected to fetch about £3 billion. Like the regional distributors, they will be offered on the instalment plan, with the added inducement of free shares. They cannot, of course, offer discounts on



KENNETH FLEET

customers' bills and their appeal to small private investors is likely to be more muted. None the less, the government will be looking for a popular and successful issue, without extravagant premiums and the critical backlash it has felt this week from smug opponents and applicants who received miserable allotments or no shares at all. The nub of the exercise will again be pricing the shares. To be fair to the City advisers who got it wrong with the regional companies, the fault may lie more in the system than in their fragile powers of judgment. Unlike the United States, where the interval between pricing an issue and selling it is short and therefore at the mercy of market movements for only a brief period, in London the opposite is true. With electricity, "impact day" — the day the 240p per share price was revealed — was November 21 and the offer was open until December 5.

Two weeks is a long time in the life of the stock market, and it was noticeable that despite some bearish influences at work share prices generally improved

during that period and made electricity relatively more attractive. Something similar has happened, as if by magic, during previous large privatisation sales, but never mind: it is all in a good cause. The only discomfort is felt by the price fixers, who have egg on their faces, and government ministers, who have to defend themselves against allegations of selling the family silver at giveaway prices and treating investors out of taxpayers' pockets.

The time has come to re-examine the London new issue system, preferably in time for useful practical changes to be made before the next privatisation sale. Particularly close scrutiny should be given to the role and benefits of underwriting. In my view, the electricity lead underwriters, having in mind the possibility of a war in the Gulf, stretched the system beyond reasonable limits by demanding a force majeure clause.

Had the shooting begun, the government would surely have withdrawn the issue. Why therefore pay fat underwriting commissions if you are effectively your own underwriter of what is perceived to be the principal risk? A shift to the American system may be needed, with fast distribution of stock and flexible pricing to take account of changes in general market conditions almost up to the time of sale. Underwriting would take on a new, and less costly meaning, if it were needed at all.

## Fragile days for firms and dividends

The warmish market glow that helped the electricity sale still continues. Christmas is always a bad time to be bearish and I note that chartist Richard Lake (*World Stock Market Analysis*), having marked a barrier to a rising FT-SE index at 2,180, believes that if the index breaks through the barrier a further run to the 2,300 area is indicated. The break-through has occurred. Alternatively, a fall below 2,100 would reinstate "a major downturn". My brief reference here last week to analysis of the other sort — in Warburg Securities' paper *The Financial Fragility of the Company Sector* — prompted a good deal of interest and a demand for more. The fragility is caused by the financial pressures on companies of rising in-

terest payments, tax and dividend payments compounded by their growing recourse to debt financing, as distinct from issuing equity. Companies making up the FT-SE index required an average of 48 per cent of their gross cash flow (broadly their income) to cover these three items.

Eighteen estimates to devote more than the average to interest, tax and dividends include Sears, Trafalgar House, BPB Industries, Maxwell Communications, Asda, ICI, Tarmac, Burton and Guinness. The financial pressures on them have grown since 1988, which suggests they are more vulnerable than the average to downgrading by the market.

Dividend cover for the FT-SE industrial companies is expected to decline

from 2.9 times in 1988 to 2.5 times next year, and for all FT-SE companies, from 2.8 times to 2.3 times. Stocks with the lowest dividend cover include Midland Bank, BPB Industries, Maxwell Communications, ICI, Burton, National Westminster Bank, Trafalgar House, Sears and Blue Circle.

Not surprisingly, the biggest deterioration in dividend cover has occurred in the more cyclical sectors of the market. If you couple the financial pressures they are under with the generally poor prospect of earnings growth next year, and maybe beyond, the chances of dividend increases are slim, while the chances of dividend cuts, by some of the companies, are real. Electricity and water stocks are a safer bet in these uneasy times.

## Gencor in £4.1bn expansion plan

SOUTH AFRICA'S Gencor said its expansion plans could involve capital expenditure of R20 billion (£4.1 billion) and create 33,000 jobs.

Derek Keys, Gencor's executive chairman, speaking to

investors and analysts in London yesterday, said that there were a number of exciting projects in the pipeline for Gencor companies. Mr Keys added: "Developing new projects or expanding our existing

businesses will also create 33,000 jobs throughout the Gencor group."

Gencor said Gencold, its mining side, which is establishing two mines and expanding three its existing mines, has plans which could involve R7 billion in the next few years and projects which could provide 11,000 jobs.

The first phase of the expansion will cost about R670 million.

## UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld				
ACTUAL LIFE INSURANCE				AGRI LIFE				ALBERT LIFE				ALCOHOL LIFE				ALFRED LIFE				ALMA LIFE			
14.92	15.29	+0.02		14.92	15.29	+0.02		14.92	15.29	+0.02		14.92	15.29	+0.02		14.92	15.29	+0.02					
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Monthly performance figures show value of £100 based on offer to offer prices without income re-invested and ranking within sector. Yearly figures are based on offer to bid prices with income re-invested. — Unit trust founded within last year + DFP scheme available. Source: Finstat.

Good	Bid	Offer	1 month	1 year	Fund	Bid	Offer	1 month	1 year
	price	price	term	term		price	price	term	term

Offer	1 month	1 year	Fund	5
min	month	month		yr

[illegible]

Heritage European	97.83	104.1	104.4	34	-	-	Adria I
Royal Life European	94.30	99.22	102.2	79	84.2	26	Bardonia
Royal London European Gth	98.99	70.94	103.2	58	83.1	32	

[illegible]

James Capel Japan Index	58.16	59.93	105.7	1	51.8	69	Black H
KB Japan	298.7	317.3	97.2	59	54.7	64	Black H
KB Japan Special	160.2	169.4	93.8	74	65.3	83	Brianne

[illegible]

James Canal F East Spec Shts	54.12	57.75	102.4	22	67.3	12
Pacific	158.2	168.3	103.3	12	63.2	27
S Far East	15.47	16.41	104.0	4	62.8	3.5

[illegible]

SE Asia	49.88	53.08	103.4	32	72.1	19	RN Opt Mngt
more Hong Kong	36.98	38.57	107.4	8	84.4	1	Royal Life Ins
more Pacific GR	70.14	75.02	105.1	21	80.9	7	Royal Life S

[illegible][illegible]



180	Find Net Flo	100	25	0.30	1.3
14	GPB	21	1	29.3	8.4
202	Garned Net	307	315	1.9	24
78	Guinness Malbon	75	80	6.7	7.5
105	Hambro	239	228	15.9	6.7
20	HK Shanghai	39	31	-	-

244	190	Stevens Trust	244	237	-2	13.8	8.4	4.1
245	191	Goshute Water	245	247	+5	20.6	8.1	6.1
246	192	South Water	246	263	+1	22.2	8.9	4.5
247	193	Thames Water	247	294	-3	21.4	8.1	6.0
248	194	Wye Water	248	280	+1	22.4	8.0	4.5
249	195	Yorkshire Water	249	280	-1	21.2	8.2	4.5
250	271	Yorkshire Water	250	293	-3	20.0	7.8	3.4
270051000		Package Unit	2250		+12			

Ex dividend = Ex pl = Forecast dividend = Interest  
 Payment passed / Price at suspension / Dividend ann  
 Forecast exclude a special payment / Pro-rata figure  
 Forecast earnings = Ex other / Ex rights = Ex Corp  
 Where split / Tax-free ... No significant data.

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings o Ex other f Ex rights e Ex scrip o



## Liquidators rule out large losses for investors

THE £30 million collapse this week of the Levitt Group, one of Britain's largest financial services companies, should not mean losses for most investors, according to liquidators from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant (Sara McConnell writes).

The majority of the Levitt Group's 5,000 active clients bought insurance or pension policies through the group, which was acting as a broker.

Clients who made out cheques directly to the insurance company should not lose money.

Phil Wallace, joint liquidator at KPMG, said: "We are suggesting that if clients are concerned they should write to the insurance company where their policy is held to check their policy is valid."

If there are inconsistencies, policyholders can contact the liquidators at Levitt House, 143, Great Portland Street, London W1.

About 200 clients held portfolios that were actively managed by the group. It appears that money in these portfolios was invested in insurance bonds rather than broker bonds or equities.

Levitt Group client funds were invested in bonds from companies that included Sun

Life, Scottish Equitable, Devonshire Life and Hill Samuel. Money belonging to investors in these funds is not at risk.

The Levitt liquidators said yesterday: "Allegations of irregularities which we understand may relate to up to 15 of the 200 cases are now under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office." They added that it would take time to unravel the Levitt Group's financial affairs as records were "in some cases deficient".

If investors have lost money they may be able to apply for compensation through the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) run by the Securities and Investments Board.

The scheme will only operate if the ICS board declares the company to be in default, unable to pay its debts and owing money.

The company has to be fully authorised, as the Levitt Group was under the Financial Intermediaries and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra).

The compensation scheme only covers private investors and will only pay out up to £48,000 in compensation for investments covered by the Financial Services Act.

## Levitt's demise sparks churning alert

By SARA MCCONNELL

INVESTORS who are advised by a salesman to cash in a life or pension policy and take out a new one will almost always lose money on the deal, while the salesman will earn commission on each policy.

After the demise this week of the Levitt Group, the high profile financial services group, some life companies are predicting that the company's former clients will be persuaded by other salesmen to cash in life and pension policies and take out policies with different companies.

Life companies admit this practice, known as churning, continues to be a problem, despite a tightening of procedures.

Alan Goodman, marketing manager of Standard Life, Britain's largest mutual insurer, said: "Churning undoubtedly still goes on and people switch for the wrong reasons. It is not as widespread as it appears and the vast majority of cases are correct under best advice."

"If an adviser thinks someone has totally the wrong policy, we would not consider it churning. But if someone is just suggesting a change of company it would be."

However, some brokers may persuade people to cash in existing policies unnecessarily to earn commission. The Consumers' Association said a salesman could earn about £1,000 by selling a 25-



year endowment policy to cover a £40,000 mortgage.

Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said: "Mortgages are the most tempting area for churning because they are the most complex purchase most people make. Most people are not confident enough to question the advice they receive."

Policies should not be cashed in on the evidence of better past performance from

another company because this did not guarantee future performance, she added. Commissions on endowments vary, but life offices admit rates could tempt brokers. David Seviour, assistant director at Allied Dunbar, said: "There is clearly an incentive for brokers to offer new policies."

For a man aged 35 next birthday, taking out a 25-year endowment (normally taken

out to cover a mortgage), and paying premiums of £30 a month, an Allied Dunbar salesman would earn £280 up front plus a further 2.5 per cent of the premiums every year after an initial three-year period. Norwich Union salesmen would earn £285 up front, plus yearly renewals after the initial period for selling the same policy.

A salesman can earn commission on an indemnity ba-

sis. This means he is paid the whole of his initial commission upfront when the first contribution is paid. Allied Dunbar pays £237 up front for commission earned on this basis, while Norwich Union pays £238.50. If salesmen do not earn the indemnity commission they have been paid, life companies claw it back.

Alasdair Buchanan, group marketing manager at Scottish Widows, said investors being tempted into taking out a new policy should ask the salesman to prove his case.

"Advisers must have reasons to make their choice and investors should ask: 'How much am I gaining? What is the surrender value of the policy? How does it compare with the premium? It would normally not be good value to surrender a policy.'"

People surrendering a policy long before it matures will find they get back less than they paid in premiums. Life offices' set-up costs, particularly administration, and the cost of paying brokers' initial commission mean surrender values are almost non-existent in the first two years, and people need to hang on to their policies for between five and ten years before the surrender value is more than the total paid in.

A spokesman for Norwich Union said that a male, aged 30, paying £30 a month into a 25-year endowment plan would have to keep it for six

years before premiums exceeded surrender values. After five years the surrender value would be £1,699 after £1,800 of premiums had been paid. After six years and £2,160 of premiums the surrender value would be £2,304.

With-profits policies increase in value the longer they are held, as they earn bonuses every year that cannot be taken away. However, surrender values vary widely. A November survey in *Planned Savings*, the magazine, showed that a male, aged 29, paying £100 a year into a 25-year endowment policy would receive £2,171 from Equitable Life but only £1,480 from the Prudential if he surrendered the policy after ten years. The average value was £1,494. Surrendering the same policy after 20 years would bring the policyholder £9,110 from Norwich Union but only £7,179 from Clerical Medical.

Life companies are trying to make it more difficult for their salesmen to churn investors' policies. Allied Dunbar insists that salesmen fill in a form explaining why they are recommending a replacement policy. This form lists all the disadvantages of surrendering early and has to be signed by the customer.

Other companies say they keep tabs on their salesmen's activities. However, the Consumers' Association believes that they are still not doing enough.

## Income from bond eats into capital

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

INVESTORS tempted by the promise of a fixed net monthly income of 13.5 per cent a year plus the potential for growth "for inflation protection" as the brochure states, need to be careful they understand what is on offer.

Protected Asset Management, an independent financial adviser, has written to other brokers about its offer of a three-year fixed monthly income via its Income & Growth Bond. In fact, the monthly income, described as free of tax, is largely a refund of the investor's own capital.

Investors with £10,000 are offered a net monthly income of £112.50, which works out at £1,350 a year, or, as the brochure says, 13.5 per cent a year or 18 per cent gross. It says this rate is available at the time of going to press but can fall. Over the three years investors would receive a total income of £4,050. But the bond works by splitting the money so that 35 per cent, or £3,500 out of the £10,000, goes into the income element and the balance goes into the PAM Growth Fund managed by the direction of Edwin Forry Hargitt.

The size of the monthly payments means that none of the original £3,500 and interest earned on it, if any, will be left at the end of the period. So those who expect to receive the full amount, or even more, back are likely to be disappointed in all but the most buoyant markets. For example, a woman who put £20,000 into a two-year bond late in 1988 and has taken regular income of 11 per cent now finds the surrender value is less than £17,000. Units bought at 100.7p are now worth 109.9p, but only two thirds of her investment have achieved this 9.2 per cent growth because of the way the bond works.

The 65 per cent should be invested in a diversified portfolio of high yielding international growth companies and interest-bearing assets. But the £3 million fund has not been invested in shares but in cash in offshore accounts with Lloyds and Midland Bank earning interest gross for the last 12 months, said Mr Hargitt, because market conditions were not right for equity investment.

He added that investors needed to take a long-term view. At the end of the initial period a further lump sum would be withdrawn from the growth fund for income.

The fund is held and administered by NEL Britannia, although investment is managed by Mr Hargitt. There is an initial fee of £50 and an annual charge to NEL Britannia of 1.5 per cent on the growth part of the fund, plus an annual fee of 1.25 per cent for Protected Asset Management.

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

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LETTERS

Bonus hike from reserves robs Peter to pay Paul

From Mr Alan Jenkins  
Sir, I was surprised to read (Comment, December 8) that an insurance company is offering to pay journalists to write articles justifying cuts in with-profits bonuses.

Quite apart from the obvious futility of trying to generate favourable comment in this way, surely the fundamental point is that bonuses should be reduced if the underlying investments have fallen in value.

Banks need to take action over delays if credit card fraudsters are to be caught

From Mr Richard Miller  
Sir, Mr Mervyn Gibson of Barclays Bank tells us that the banks are working together to defeat credit card fraudsters (December 1). From my own experience I can say that one area in dire need of attention is the delay when fraud is reported.

On August 28 an unauthorised purchase was made using my Access account. In the next week there were another three such purchases. The sums involved were substantial: more than £3,000 in all.

On September 14 I received my monthly statement. I immediately telephoned Access. They said it was premature to talk of fraud. They wanted to obtain copies of the relevant vouchers first. A perfectly sensible idea - except that the vouchers are not readily available.

The problem, so I have been told, is that where an Access voucher is processed through a Visa affiliated bank (e.g. Barclays), the voucher is retained by Visa and thus it takes "6 to 8 weeks minimum" for Access to obtain a copy.

Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

not supported by investment performance is surely not to be praised by journalists or anyone else for that matter. If such bonuses are supported by withdrawals from "reserves", then the question arises as to where those "reserves" came from, and the uncomfortable answer could perhaps be that they represent profits that should have been paid out to previous generations of with-profits policyholders.

Extra draws

From Mrs Govans  
Sir, I have read the comments about "Ernie" in your pages and note that not one of your correspondents has remarked that all Premium Bonds go into a draw for 52 weeks a year and again in the monthly draws yet their original investment remains intact.

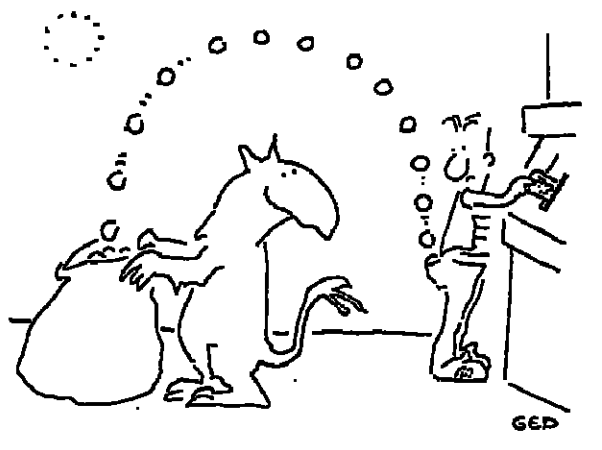
If they want their investment to gain regular interest why don't they put their capital into a building society? I shall keep my 400 odd bonds invested as there is always the hope that I might win a large sum of money. Holdings of as little as £10 and £20 have won very large prizes.

Yours faithfully,  
MRS GOVANS,  
10 Housier Close,  
Stamford,  
Middlesex.

Waiting patiently

From Mr Rodi Okorodudu  
Sir, I bought my Premium Bonds on 3rd June 1959. I am still patiently waiting for my first prize!

Yours faithfully,  
RODI OKORODUDU,  
28 Pound Lane,  
Epsom,  
Surrey.



Student fell foul of Midland charges

From B. Poling  
Sir, My son's experience with the Midland Bank matches that of Ms Alison Hunt. A student, he slipped into unauthorised overdraft by a few pence. His main transactions are withdrawing £5 from the cash dispensers and are therefore frequent.

For an overdraft of a few pence he was docked £125 in charges. He was not informed, and thinking he was well in credit he wrote a small cheque. This was returned and a £22 charge made, plus £12 for a letter.

Personal receipts tax is essential ingredient of classless society

From Mr Geoff Loughborough  
Sir, Your report on inheritance (Weekend Money, Inheritance tax on rise in property values), combined with the Prime Minister's expressed vision of a classless society, prompts me as a strong supporter of such a society to ask to use your columns to float the idea that an essential ingredient should be a Personal Receipts Tax.

In a free enterprise, equal opportunity and reward-for-effort society it strikes me as totally inequitable and economically unwise to allow a situation where some members of society enjoy investment income derived from the efforts of others (usually an-

cestors) while actual effort and income is taxed. My proposal is that receipt of an inheritance or other gift should be taxed (after allowing for a tax-free allowance - £10,000) - to cover gifts of sentimental value and reasonable heirlooms at a marginal rate of say 50 per cent, rising to 99 per cent above £1 million.

Current taxes such as death duties would be terminated. There are strong arguments in favour of the government introducing such a tax: ☐ Moral - if a free enterprise, equal opportunity etc society is to be universally and indefinitely accepted, it must be seen as fair. This can never be while

some are having, at least partially, a free ride. ☐ Economic - it makes no sense for large tracts of wealth to be controlled by well educated but often idiot offspring of wealthy ancestors as is currently the case. ☐ Efficiency - equally the nation's resources would be far better utilised if a donor were to give untaxed money to, for example, educational trusts (there would be a strong incentive to do so). ☐ Political - it would be a political masterstroke - convincing many of the cynical and less well off that the Tories are serious about the classless, reward for effort society. The transfer of support to the Tory party and the

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 39).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
11	+6	+5	+2	+8	+3		
12	+7	+1	+2	+3	+3		
13	+6	+2	+2	+4	+5		
14	+6	+5	+2	+7	+3		
15	+5	+3	+2	+5	+5		
16	+8	+2	+2	+5			
17	+6	+4	+5	+3	+7		
18	+5	+4	+3	+4	+6		
19	+7	+5	+5	+3	+8		
20	+6	+5	+4	+2	+8		
21	+4	+2	+1	+4	+6		
22	+7	+6	+4	+4	+6		
23	+6	+2	+1	+2	+5		
24	+6	+5	+3	+4	+6		
25	+7	+4	+3	+6	+4		
26	+6	+3	+3	+4	+5		
27	+6	+5	+3	+4	+6		
28	+7	+3	+2	+2	+4		
29	+6	+4	+2	+7	+3		
30	+7	+1	+1	+2	+3		
31	+4	+2	+2	+4	+5		
32	+7	+3	+1	+2	+5		
33	+6	+5	+4	+3	+6		
34	+6	+4	+2	+6	+3		
35	+6	+4	+1	+5	+3		
36	+9	+7	+4	+3	+7		
37	+7	+2	+1	+2	+4		
38	+8	+4	+3	+3	+7		
39	+8	+2	+1	+4	+5		
40	+6	+4	+3	+2	+7		
41	+7	+4	+1	+5	+4		
42	+5	+4	+2	+5	+6		
43	+7	+5	+4	+3	+7		
44	+6	+1	+1	+3	+3		

BRIEFINGS

☐ PEARL is offering to waive its 6 per cent initial charge on its UK Income Trust for serving members of the armed forces until January 15. They will receive a 4 per cent discount, while the other 2 per cent will go to the Royal British Legion's forces Christmas appeal. A further 1 per cent of the total from all other investors will also be handed over.

☐ Save and Prosper's Tax Exempt Savings Account (Tessa), in conjunction with Robert Fleming, will pay a variable rate of 15% per cent and a fixed rate of 13 per cent if the application is received by January 14. After that date it will be 1 per cent less.

☐ Tyndall's Tessa will pay 13.65 per cent at current rates of interest and will continue to pay a rate at least equal to the rate on its High Interest Money Account.

☐ The Halifax Building Society has received enquiries from 600,000 people about its Tessa, available from January 1. It will pay 13.5 per cent interest on the tax-free account. The society is offering prizes, including a sports car and conservatory, in a Tessa competition.

☐ Gartmore Money Management will pay 13 per cent on its Tessa Prime account, compounded at 13.65 per cent.

☐ Barclays is offering 13 per cent on its Tessa and guarantees the rate will not change before March 1, 1991. The banks says it is receiving about

250 calls a day on its Tessa helpline.

☐ General Portfolio has increased the rates on its two, three and four-year guaranteed income and growth bonds. For each £1,000 invested in a guaranteed income bond over one, two, three or four years, savers will earn 9.75 per cent interest. A £1,000 investment in a guaranteed growth bond would earn an extra £97.50 in one year, £204.50 after two years, £321.50 after three years and £450.80 after four years.

☐ Midland Bank has rounded its gross rates to reflect the abolition of composite rate tax next April. Balances of £10,000 or more in an Exchequer account will earn 13.75 per cent gross, while balances of £25,000 or more will earn 14 per cent.

☐ Independent research carried out for National Westminster bank showed that 37 per cent of first-year students with a bank or building society account had a current account with NatWest. The bank offers students a £30 gift and interest free overdraft of £300.

☐ Britannia Building Society is offering first-time buyers a 2 per cent mortgage reduction with its Helpstart package for the first six months. Borrowers must take out one of its endowments to cover the loan.

☐ Mortgages at 12.6 per cent fixed for two years are offered by the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society.

There is a penalty of three months' interest for early redemption.

☐ Mortgage business has more than doubled at the Skipton Building Society since October's cut in interest rates, with more than 40 per cent of the increase being on Debut, its first-time buyer mortgage.

☐ Independent Investment Management, the financial adviser, has joined forces with Shaw and Co, the stockbroker, to offer advice and valuations on the investment portfolios of wealthy individuals. It will charge commission rather than a fixed fee. Portfolio valuations will cost £25.

☐ Commercial Union's Prime Living policy will pay a lump sum if policyholders are diagnosed with cancer, or suffer a heart attack or kidney failure. It will also pay out for permanent and total disablement for more than 12 months. Maximum sum assured is £250,000.

☐ A five-year guaranteed income bond, which invests in an assured tenancy business expansion scheme, has been launched by Chancery, the merchant bank. Higher-rate taxpayers could earn a dividend of up to 14 per cent a year gross with Constellation Dividend, the bank claims. Basic rate taxpayers could earn 11.2 per cent. Chancery has launched Growth Assured II and Growth Assured III, which will pay a guaranteed rate of 16.5 per cent a year tax free.



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£2,000-9,999	13.10%	9.82%

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Credit card customers will need to take pocket calculators shopping from March if they are to work out the price of items. Revised draft regulations issued by the trade department on differential pricing for credit card customers are intended to leave traders "as free as possible" to determine their own pricing policy.

Retailers will continue to put the cash price on tickets and displays and will only be required to place general notices at the public entrances and at the tills indicating how much extra credit card customers will have to pay. This can be given in percentage terms.

At filling stations, petrol retailers will be able to show the price for whichever method of payment they choose on the pumps and for displays. Most are likely to opt for the lower cash price.

There will also have to be details of differential prices somewhere on the pumps but, again, only in general terms.

The retailers are not supposed to charge more than the credit card companies charge them for

credit card transactions. The average merchant fee on transactions is currently 1.65 per cent. Only the most nimble mathematician will be able to work out how much a tank full of petrol will cost a credit card customer when the percentage increase is given to two percentage points and the cash price is £20.37.

Customers will have to trust retailers who choose to charge different prices to credit card customers not to take advantage of the situation.

They will have no way of knowing what stores and filling stations are charged by credit card companies and whether the extra percentage they are being charged has not been rounded up.

The credit card companies are expected to monitor differential pricing, not trading standards departments. This will add to their costs and no doubt it will be the cardholder who pays in the end.

Last time differential pricing

## Credit customers will count on trust



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

was tried, greed got the better of some retailers, particularly filling stations, and it was short-lived.

Unless dual-pricing is properly policed, shoppers will stop using cards.

Two of the major banks already make an annual charge for credit cards and others are thought to be planning to introduce charges in the first quarter of next year.

At the same time, the interest-free period for credit card users is under serious consideration. Barclays has already scrapped it for customers who do not pay their bills in full each month.

It could mean a return to the cheque for customers determined

not to pay more and longer queues at cash desks as a result.

### Broker threat

It seems that brokers become more and more like farmers. They like to have something to complain about. And if there is nothing new then a very old problem will do.

Members of the Institute of Insurance Brokers are threatening to boycott General Accident from January 1 because the insurance company has had the audacity to provide an insurance package for the Ford motor company to give away to buyers

of new Fiestas, Escorts and Orion.

General Accident first offered a similar deal in 1937 to the Morris motor company and has more recently provided insurance cover for the buyers of new Volkswagens and Seats. But only GA's arrangement with Ford has incurred the wrath of this small band of brokers. They do not like motorists dealing directly with insurance companies and being guaranteed a full no claims discount when the year of free cover is over.

The referral of their boycott to the Restrictive Practices Court this week by the director general of fair trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, has only spurred them on.

Andrew Paddick, the institute's director general, claims the brokers want to protect the public from injury. The no claims bonus is an incentive to safe driving and the scheme was likely to put bad drivers into fast or unsuitable cars. General Accident statistical-

ly refutes these allegations. More than 90 per cent of new car buyers have a full no claims bonus, the company says, and a further small percentage is within one year of achieving the maximum bonus. The cost of finding the small number of drivers among the 80,000 who benefited from the Ford scheme who did not qualify on driving experience for the full bonus, outweighed the cost of giving them the bonus.

The brokers fail to publicise the fact that many drivers have a full bonus purely because they have paid an additional premium to safeguard it, not because they are safe drivers. The protection policies are, of course, mostly sold by brokers.

They should stop pretending their concern is road safety and admit they are reluctant to lose the commission of 12.5 to 21 per cent of premiums they receive when they sell or renew a motor policy. Brokers should concentrate on giving clients value for this money so that they are not tempted to boycott brokers and deal directly with insurance companies.

MILLIONS of electricity share certificates will join the Christmas post next week. Their arrival is expected to cause queues at banks, building societies and brokers all over the country as investors try to take advantage of cheap and free dealing offers before they are withdrawn.

The drastic scaling down of the issues means that the maximum number of shares individual investors will have to sell in a single company is 500 and most people will have several packets of 100 shares. They face the dilemma that such a small number of the shares is not really worth holding but may wish to wait for the first batch of vouchers to be issued in August. They are worth £18 for every 100 shares. Customers who wait for the vouchers may feel they then have to hold the shares for much longer as the special deals to sell electricity shares will have ended, making it more expensive and, in many cases, more complicated to sell them.

Those applicants who had registered with brokers to sell shares before interim certificates are issued were able to take average profits of 50 per cent on Tuesday before dealing charges were taken into account.

The real winners were the families who applied for 100 shares each in every company. They received either all the shares they wanted or 1,190, depending on whether they were Seeboing customers or not. Shares costing a family of four £4,800 were worth £7,228 at close of business on the first day of dealing and the commission on the whole lot could have been as little as £120

## Electricity investors expected to rush for deals

through Diameter, the Guildford stockbroker. Those who had made arrangements to sell on the first day should have made more than £2,250 profit, even when including lost interest on the money until January 11 when settlement takes place.

The price of the shares has changed little since then, and investors who qualify for free dealing through the Skipton Building Society or cheap dealing through other brokers should see sizeable profits on family packages of shares in all or most of the companies.

The certificates and refund cheques should begin to arrive on Wednesday, giving people three and a half days to sell before Christmas. Those who are quick off the mark can even sell and have the cheque for the proceeds cleared on Christmas Eve if they use one of the 270 branches of National Westminster Bank with a touch screen. The minimum fee for instant dealing is £17 for shares in one company worth up to

£1,133. The bank is also offering postal dealing for a minimum commission of £9.

Yorkshire Building Society is charging £10 to sell shares worth up to £300 in one company and £15 above. Customers should know the price within one hour and immediate clearance of up to £300 will be given to cheques paid into a Yorkshire account on the settlement day.

Applicants who feel sore about losing interest on large sums withdrawn from bank and building society accounts early in December and then receiving few if any shares are being offered assorted deals by savings institutions wanting the cheques. The National & Provincial Building Society is offering 15 days' extra interest to customers and non-customers who did not receive the full allocation of electricity shares they applied for. Alternatively, they can choose £10 of electricity stamps. To qualify, they should pay their refund cheque back into their existing account or open a N&P Instant Reserve account. The society expects investors to leave the money with them for at least three months.

The Bristol & West Building Society is offering back-dated interest to December 4 on refund cheques deposited in its Treble Rate Bond before December 31. The 90-day account pays 11 per cent on sums of £5,000 to £10,000 and 12 per cent above £25,000. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will pay interest on uncashed cheques returned to the society by January 4.

LINDSAY COOK

## Shoppers warned to check bank notes after increase in forgeries



Devious currency: Tracy Watt with one of the £20 notes received from a bank in Aberdeen and which is now with Scotland Yard

SHOPPERS should check their change more carefully and bank customers also need to look closely at the notes they are given. There has been an increase in the number of counterfeit bank notes in circulation in the past few months.

A spokesman for the Bank of England confirmed this week: "The problem originated in London and the home counties and appears to have spread out thinly from there."

The increase has nothing to do with pre-Christmas spending, said the Bank of England, although notes undergo the heaviest use at this time.

The number of cases of forged notes reported to the Abbey National in the past year rose to 50. The Bank added that there was no pattern to suggest that this was typical of Christmas time.

However, it can be worrying to receive a note or notes that are believed to be forged. A young couple in Scotland had a problem with dubious English notes recently.

When Tracy Watt and Malcolm Geddes tried to transfer £200 from the TSB bank to their Abbey National account, the Abbey refused to accept some of the money because the cashier believed the bank notes were forged. Ms Watt said: "We took the money out of the TSB in Aberdeen and first

thing the next morning tried to put £200 in the Abbey National but they wouldn't take it. The cashier said four of the £20 notes were forged and she told us to go back to the bank."

"The TSB had given us the notes in an elastic band and when we arrived back at the bank they were still in the elastic band. The bank manager did not deny that there was any possibility the notes had come from his branch but he said there was nothing he could do about it and all I could do was go to the police."

"The police told us that if they formally took possession of the money I would get a receipt for £80, but that would not be much use to us."

Early the following week a local policeman, after visiting the bank, handed over genuine notes to the couple from the TSB. The "forged" notes were then handed to Scotland Yard.

A TSB (Scotland) spokesman said: "We cannot comment on this case because of customer confidentiality."

He added: "If the customer has a complaint about the service she should speak to the manager and any misunderstanding can be cleared up. If there is still a dispute we have a customer complaints procedure which the manager will explain." The Abbey National's cashier had rejected the £20 notes

because the watermark showed the Queen's head instead of Shakespeare's and the line through the notes was incorrect.

The Bank of England believes that, rather than forgeries, these may simply have been old notes. A spokesman said: "We cannot be sure unless we see the notes but there is a real chance they are making a classic mistake here. On current £20 notes, the watermark is Shakespeare's head. But before November 1984, the Queen's head was in the watermark and some of these notes are still in circulation."

The silver thread changed at the same time. After November 1984 this is a windowed thread looking like silver dashes; on old notes it was embedded in the paper and was thinner. Old notes, which may have been kept under someone's mattress for years, are still valid if they come back into circulation.

Being stuck with forged notes is a problem. Anyone who tries to pass them on to somebody else could be charged with passing counterfeit money. By law, recipients of forged notes are obliged to report the matter to the police.

The Bank spokesman said that where a customer believed he or she had received forged notes from a bank, it was "very much a matter between the bank and the customer". He added: "Once the customer has left the premises there is the question of establish-

ing beyond doubt they are the same notes. This is a difficult question in law since there is no obligation on the bank to take them back if the customer cannot prove that is where the notes came from."

To recognise a forged note it should be compared with one known to be genuine and the following four points, which the Bank of England identifies, should be sought:

□ Feel the paper — it should be crisp and slightly rough in the heavily printed areas. Beware of a note that appears limp, waxy, shiny, or greasy.

□ Quality of the printing — it should be sharp and well defined with no blurred edges.

□ Watermark — a clearly defined portrait with subtle gradations of light and shade should be visible. The watermark on £20 notes is Shakespeare's head except in pre-November 1984 notes, which bear the Queen's head.

□ Silver thread — a bold continuous line embedded in the paper can be seen on the front of the note. In pre-1984 notes the thread is embedded in the paper.

Forged notes are only ever an infinitesimal proportion of the total number of notes in circulation, but usually they are £20 notes.

MARGARET DIBBEN

## More choice for larger houses

TWO buildings and contents policies for properties with a rebuilding value of £150,000 or more and contents valued at more than £35,000 were launched by Wellington Personal Insurances this week.

Both policies are underwritten at Lloyd's. The Gold policy combines buildings and contents, cover with contents automatically insured for up to 50 per cent of the property value. This value is normally assessed by an independent surveyor or building society valuer.

Homes with a rebuilding cost of £150,000 will also have £75,000

worth of contents cover. Jewellery and works of art up to £5,000 are covered with a limit of £2,000 per item.

The Silver policy has similar cover but policyholders can opt to have buildings and contents separate or combined. It also has an excess of £250, while the Gold policy has an excess of £500.

Steven Windich, managing director of Wellington Personal Insurances, said: "People with larger houses don't have the same choices as those with smaller ones and we decided people with more than £35,000 worth of contents weren't being well served." A

Gold Policy with £250,000 of cover, including accidental damage and £125,000 contents cover with £5,000 for jewellery, would cost £597.50 in Oxford and £732.50 in Richmond.

The policyholder would have to pay the first £500 of any claim.

These premiums assume that the house has no security devices. There are discounts for installing fire extinguishers, smoke detectors or burglar alarms. The company would insist on burglar alarms being installed in high risk areas such as London.

SARA MCCONNELL

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## Trusts advised to link up products

INVESTORS can look forward to new products linked to investment trusts if the trusts follow advice offered by SG Warburg Securities this week in its annual review of the industry.

Packaged with mortgages, pensions or school fees savings plans, investment trusts could attract the private investors who continue to elude them, according to Warburg. The brokers noted that the level of private shareholdings in investment trusts appears to be stuck at about 30 per cent.

In packaged form, they said, the trusts would rank as necessary investments instead of having to compete for any spare cash investors might have after covering essentials.

John Korwin-Szymanowski, investment trust research manager at Warburg, said that investment trusts could be far more tax efficient and flexible than endowment policies. Unlike insurance companies, investment trusts pay no capital gains or income tax on their funds and investors can also escape these taxes by holding the trusts through a personal equity plan (Pep). He suggested that investment trusts should follow the lead of Scottish American Investment Trust, which is running a Pep mortgage in association with the Bank of Scotland. Invest-

ment trusts are especially keen to attract private investors after this year's takeover of Globe, the largest trust, by the British Coal Pension Funds.

"The Globe takeover showed that corporate activity is here to stay," said Mr Korwin-Szymanowski. "Investment trusts see private investors as their saviours from predators."

There are statistics to back this view. Investment trusts became takeover targets when they traded at a wide discount to the net asset value of the underlying investments. Warburg found that investment trusts overall averaged a discount of 16.6 per cent, but that trusts in which private investors held more than a 30 per cent stake averaged a discount of 11.3 per cent, leaving too little potential profit margin for predators.

Meanwhile, Warburg is worried about the effects on private investors of some of the promotional activities of the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC). The brokers attacked the association for issuing misleading information and criticised its encouragement of a cut-price dealing service.

Warburg's objections centred on the treatment of "extraordinary" shares: the zero dividend, stepped preference, income and

capital shares and warrants issued by some investment trusts in addition to ordinary shares. Warburg's analysts said that these complicated instruments should be judged on their total return potential and not by looking at net asset values in the normal way. "We believe it is positively misleading to publish daily net asset values on certain capital shares," said Vanessa Yeo, of Warburg. "How can a layman distinguish between a 16 per cent discount on River Plate Capital? An uninformed person would not realise that the River Plate figures was artificial because it took no account of prior charges against assets represented by different classes of shares."

She added that although the objective of cut-price dealing in investment trusts shares was laudable, Sharelink IT, an execution-only service encouraged by the AITC, was only suitable for a few private investors buying generalist investment trusts shares.

At the AITC, Julie Jupe said that Warburg had already raised objections privately to the publication of net asset values on several occasions. "We recognise what they are saying, but it would open the floodgates up, if we



John Korwin-Szymanowski

started highlighting warnings to look out for different capital structures," said Ms Jupe. "We would be getting into the role of giving advice and we are not authorised to do that."

Ms Jupe rejected Warburg's criticism of the Sharelink service. "It was never intended for the lay person. It was always for the person who knew what they were doing." She added that the association recommended that investors go to suitable, qualified financial advisers.

BARBARA ELLIS



# Smile cracks the secret of modest Morse's code

By CAROL LEONARD

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Sir Jeremy Morse

If you were to spend an hour or two closeted with Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman of Lloyds Bank, without him telling you what he did for a living, you might think that he was the editor of a newspaper such as *The Times*. You would never expect him to be a banker.

He admits that he might well have become a clergyman. And if he had chosen that profession, he would, he suggests with a wry smile, perhaps have become a dean.

But it is the smile that says more about Jeremy Morse than any career. Whichever profession he chose, he would have risen to the top. If he had been a clergyman — with his bald head and tall, slightly stooped frame, he certainly looks the part — he would have been a bishop. But Morse, aged 62, is not only unfailingly modest, he also underplays his hand. Perhaps the two amount to the same thing. Hence that smile.

As a schoolboy at Winchester, he was always top of his class. He became head boy and went on to receive a double first in mods and greats at Oxford.

"The senior classics master would consult him as an authority when he was 17 years old," recalls Christopher Johnson, chief economic adviser at Lloyds, who was three years below Morse at school. "He had already acquired formidable authority. He worked hard but he was not a swot. He was not the sort who had to stay up late, taking huge piles of work home at night, emerging red-eyed the next morning. But nor was it effortless."

So it is with his chosen career in banking and his job at Lloyds. Morse works hard, is conscientious, but he is not a workaholic. He has been known to describe his position there as that of "full-time non-executive chairman", since he has little to do with the day to day management of the bank — that is handled by Brian Pitman, the chief executive — and he has outside interests ranging from the theatre to chess and crosswords. The television detective series *Inspector Morse* is inspired by him, with many of the crimes being solved from crossword clues. In *Who's Who* he lists his recreations as poetry, problems and puzzles, coarse gardening and golf. None are typical of the banking profession, normally associated with greys, more sedentary pursuits.

Morse explains that by coarse gardening he means something that keeps "your hands busy and your mind free, like tree planting. Then if I get a good idea I stop gardening, and push the wheelbarrow about from place to place. I also get ideas when I am shaving." Golf, according to Cholmeley Messer, the recently retired chairman of Save & Prosper, and another old friend, is the one thing at which Morse is not exceptionally good. "It is the only thing I can think of where he is not very good. But he plays it anyway and enjoys it enormously and that says a lot about the man."

Morse is generally acknowledged as the most intellectual of Britain's four clearing bank chairmen. He is also the least well paid — albeit on £190,000 a year, but

that compares with the £327,000 earned by Sir Kit MacMahon at Midland and Sir John Quinlan's £332,000 at Barclays — and the longest serving, having been at the helm since 1977. As a consequence of his and Pitman's combined efforts, Lloyds has slowly but surely risen to the top of the pile. In 1986 the bank's shares were trading on a paltry three and a half times earnings, at a time when the other banks were on four and a half. Now it is on seven times earnings and has edged significantly ahead of the competition.

Of all the clearing banks' chairmen, Morse is known for having got on least well with Margaret Thatcher. She misinterpreted his manner and thought he was lecturing her when, in fact, all he sought was a stimulating dialogue, an intellectual debate. Morse must have been puzzled and somewhat hurt by her reaction to him. It is generally assumed that it was for this reason that he was not made Governor of the Bank of England, a post he would have enjoyed and, of course, at which he would have excelled. Yet despite this fundamental clash of personalities, and his own admission that he "detests party politics", he admits: "I have probably voted Conservative more times than not."

Morse's grandfather, a famous alpinist and politically an independent, was knighted for services to the Conservative party. "I have never voted for the greens. I tend to the centre," he concludes. "He does very much enjoy conversation and tends to introduce weightier topics than people usually discuss," agrees Richard Wilding, the retired head of the office of arts and libraries, and another old-Wykehamist, who once shared digs with Morse. "I can imagine people who do not know him well thinking that he is a bit heavy. In appearance and reputation he is formidable. But once you get to know him, you quickly realise that whoever you are, you can have an enjoyable conversation. He is very good at finding out what subject interests people and steering the conversation that way." Yet despite this love of conversation, his fluency in Latin and Greek and his fascination with words — "I am very fond of speaking, standing up in public. I do not mind if it is an after-dinner speech, a sort of soufflé, or a lunchtime lecture. I very rarely have a text, I only use one when it is demanded and I normally refuse anything that requires a text because I have come to believe, profoundly, that written and spoken English are two quite different languages" — he insists that he did not come from an intellectual family.

"I never wanted to stay on in education. I was a very successful examinee. I was always doing well at exams. But I did not have an intellectual background. We never talked at meals as a family and never debated. I wanted to get away to commercial life." He can, however, remember helping his



Musically minded: Sir Jeremy and his wife Belinda enjoy a Victorian drawing room ballad

parents solve *The Times* crossword puzzle when he was seven years old. His interest in commercial life was fuelled by the assumption that he would one day join Steward & Partners, the family brewing business in Norwich, founded in the 1780s and into which the Morse family brewery had been merged in the 1830s. "We had become the main family in it and I would have been the sixth generation in the biggest brewery in East Anglia. I originally joined the banking world to get another skill before I went back into the business. My father had been a lawyer. But in the Sixties Watney's bought it and so I never did go back."

Morse, instead, stayed with Glyn, Mills & Co for 11 years. He was seconded to the Bank of England as an executive director in 1965 when he was only aged 36. He was the second youngest Bank of England director ever. A year later, he became alternate governor at the International Monetary Fund for

Britain and then chairman of the IMF's deputies of committee of twenty.

Ask him what he will do next, Morse replies, without hesitation, "retirement... in two or three years time. My father made the classic mistake of working much harder between the ages of 60 and 70 than at any other time and I'm keen to retire much younger than that to do other things." He already has two "retirement jobs", as chairman of the governors, or

rather, warden of Winchester, and chancellor of Bristol University.

He explains this late resurgence of interest in education as "entirely as someone who wants to pass on what he has experienced, whereas your real teacher wants to teach from the beginning, a vocation for life".

Yet even his closest friends agree that he could well have been an academic.

"He is not a typical banker," says Wilding. "He is a surprising

man in many ways. One of the most noticeable ways is that he takes great joy from simple things and not necessarily ones you would associate with someone in his position, like singing Gilbert and Sullivan and Victorian drawing room ballads. He does not have an enormously good voice, but he enjoys singing them."

Morse takes the Underground to work most days from his Chelsea home, simply because he enjoys the experience. "It is so invigorating and ordinary," he says with a smile. "I really do enjoy it. I enjoy looking at people's faces and sometimes I try to picture them as they were as a child, especially the ones who look really awful. When we go to picture exhibitions I spend more time looking at faces than paintings."

Yet this obvious delight in the ordinary, simple things of life could perhaps belie a deep-seated sense of superiority. Morse would be shocked at that suggestion, even though he must have more right to that feeling than most, but it is said to be a common trait among old-Wykehamists. He comes from a wealthy, middle class background and although he enjoys company and loves cocktail parties, he admits that he would always prefer a family party to a party with friends. He sometimes asks and answers his own questions, in logical progression. Your presence is, at times, incidental. He could survive happily on his own, almost to the point of having conversations with himself.

And it is quite possible that despite his often frustrated love of debate, he believes steadfastly that his own views are right and his mind is, therefore, effectively closed to real argument. Or perhaps he is constantly searching for an intellectual equal with whom he can fulfill his ideal of the perfect conversation.

"I do find that my ideas develop best by myself," he says. "They do not develop out of talk." He becomes excited. "Yes, that is very interesting... I've never said that to anybody... I've never thought of that before. I get some very valuable insights from other people but I don't get my creative ideas from them; I get my creative ideas by walking or doing something by myself. I'm really very interested in this..."

He is eager to discuss some of his ideas. The tripolar idea, the idea, sometime ago, that the Conservative party would "have to go back and sweep the middle ground and, therefore, would probably have to drop Mrs Thatcher fairly early on", and the idea that the government faced an economic dilemma, with the north/south divide on the one hand and the need to stamp out inflation in the Southeast on the other. To do the latter would deprive the North of the recovery it had not yet had. In assessing what, in the event, has happened,

we have, he says "greatly reduced the north/south problem but the horror of it is that we have thrown away virtually all the macro economic gains that were made in the first five years".

Somewhat formal in his manner, he is deeply religious and passionately concerned about ethics. He once delivered a sermon on ethics in the City at a church in the square mile. He is also an innately nice man, kind and self-effacing, but not shy. "He is good company, a life-enhancing friend," says Messer. "He has a fantastically good brain, a multi-level brain, working on several different levels at one time, but he never imposes it on you." Nor would he ever lose his temper. "If there were a difference of opinion he would discuss it in a rational manner; he would not get emotionally involved," says Johnson who, after all, works in the same building.

Yet Morse is not unemotional. He talks with great affection about his four children: Richard, aged 31, who works at Kleinwort Benson and helped advise on the privatisation of the electricity companies; Andrew, aged 29, who runs two stationery shops, the City Organiser in Bow Lane, and another in Oxford; Samuel, aged 28, an investment manager with Fidelity; and Isabel, 23, a head hunter. A second daughter died from cancer when she was four years old.

Belinda, his wife of 35 years, is an official London tourist guide, and runs her own business. She specialises in Square Mile walks. On each of their first 26 wedding anniversaries Morse gave her a single flower, each one beginning with a different letter of the alphabet. "Now I am doing the same thing with jewels," he says. "We will have to be married for 52 years before we get to Zirconium. Men are often romantic in a way that women are not. Women have to be more practical."

While he is buying gemstones, his wife would, he says, describe him as complacent. "I am certainly that. I am very satisfied. I have never wanted to change the world. I have never had that divine discontent. When I take on a new job I quickly spot four or five things I want to change and then I leave it at that. That is a failing."

But he is nothing if not consistent. "I am against being a tyrant at work and an angel at home. I think that's what integrity is all about." He "adores" Shakespeare and quotes Hamlet: "To thine own self be true." He says: "I believe in all that."

Questioned again about his self-sufficiency, he protests anxiously: "I adore my family. I would hate to live alone." But then he paraphrases Cicero: "I am never less alone than when I am alone." "I do feel that," says Morse slowly. For he is never less than honest.

## Desperate measures needed to turn the tide of trash

TO HEAR it from the pessimists, Tokyo will sink under its own rubbish in a few years as Japan's rich, throwaway, consumer society runs out of room in its rubbish dumps.

The optimists, however, are sure Tokyo can hold back the tide of trash until the turn of the century. Meanwhile, the government is going grey trying to find a way out of the mess.

"Tokyo is facing a major crisis," says Soji Agata, head of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly's sanitation committee. "We and the sanitation department pray every day that our city will not end up buried in rubbish."

The government's latest idea, unveiled this week, is to make manufacturers of items such as televisions, cars and fridges responsible for disposing of them when consumers throw them out, either by forcing them to collect the abandoned items or by making them pay the local council's collection costs. Appliance manufacturers and car makers are not exactly enthusiastic.

In that anxious understatement perfected by many Japanese officials, Shunichi Suzuki, Tokyo's governor, admits that the capital's rubbish "is growing at a rate far beyond our expectations".

Mr Suzuki is urging fellow residents of the city to discard less and to recycle more. He is setting an example by using business cards made of recycled paper, maybe not much of an ecological breakthrough in Britain, but a big paper-saver in a country where business cards are exchanged with every greeting.

Tokyo produces about five million tonnes of garbage a year. If things go on as they are, the city will have nearly three million tonnes of rubbish by 1995

## CAPITAL CITY

JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO



Japan: pressure to purchase

convenient way to dump rubbish and to gain more elbow room in a congested country. But the government says there is a limit to how much of Japan's shoreline can be built on old tin cans, and that limit is near.

In desperation, the Tokyo government has dreamed up a plan to dig up rubbish buried at a Tokyo Bay disposal site, burn it and rebury it. The scheme is supposed to extend the dump's usefulness for between seven and fifteen years. At present rates, the site will be brimming over within a year.

The capital's bureaucrats are also touting the idea of building a huge incinerator in the heart of

and brokers have been assured that the processing plant will be odorless, but the financiers are sniffing at the plan.

One of the more unusual ways of treating the family to a day out recently was the "trash bash" organised by the government in the Tokyo Dome stadium. The aim of the one-day event was to make the capital's 12 million residents think more seriously about rubbish. About 53,000 visitors turned up. They saw a "trash fashion show" featuring recycled clothing, a display of rubbish trucks from around the world and several mock apartment rooms filled with shiny new furniture and appliances plucked from rubbish dumps, a sort of Ideal Home Exhibition for ecologists.

Those not fussy about matching colours can furnish a small apartment from what the residents of Tokyo leave on street corners for rubbish collectors to pick up. Some of the televisions, bicycles, washing machines, and tape decks may only need a new plug or a couple of screws, since the Japanese prefer to buy a replacement rather than bother with repairs. Even so, most work perfectly. Many are only two or three years out of date, too old for many Japanese who are now rich enough to afford the latest camera or hi-fi and whose flats are too small to hold anything that is not in everyday use.

Japanese manufacturers indulge their customers by bringing out new models almost every year. Sometimes retailers throw away last year's stock to make room for new items. The government's challenge seems to be to persuade the Japanese to hold on to usable household goods for longer. Japanese people replace their televisions every six years or so, and most families own at least two or

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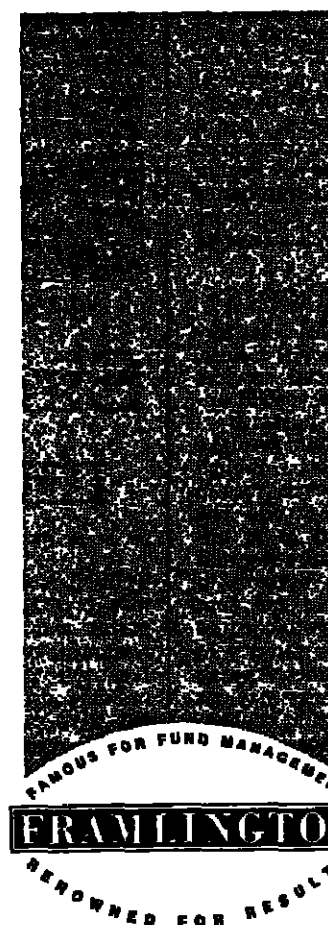
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SUMMARY

# Bank warns of rise in forgeries

BANK customers should check their change for forged notes after a warning from the Bank of England that the circulation of counterfeit notes has increased over the past few months.

Two Weekend Money readers found themselves stuck with four £20 notes, which the Abbey National refused to accept, claiming they were forgeries. Use our checklist to ensure the cash you are carrying is clean. Page 42

## Morse code



The understated and intellectual Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, quotes Cicero and Shakespeare but still takes the Underground from Chelsea every morning because he enjoys the experience of looking at the faces of other commuters. He talks to Carol Leonard. Page 43

## Power profit

Electricity customers who bought £100 of shares in each of the 12 regional power companies have made themselves a tidy profit for Christmas despite a vast scaling down of applications following the most popular privatisation to date. Families of four buying £4,800 of shares found they were worth £7,228 at the end of dealing on the first day. Page 42

## Black mark

I'm sorry but Mr Holmes can do joined-up writing.



A badly forged signature was no bar to a Girobank Visa card thief who withdrew £750 from a reader's account without the cashier demanding any proof of identity. Other letters include a call for a personal receipts tax to assist in creating a classless society, and a plea for insurance companies not to rob Peter to pay Paul in a vain attempt to keep bonus levels up when assets are falling. Page 41

## Churning fears

Life companies fear that former clients of Levis Group, the failed financial services group, may be persuaded unwisely by other salesmen to cash in their policies and take out new ones even though they may not even recoup what they have paid. The liquidators called in to unravel Levis's affairs say that the majority of investors in the group should not lose money if they wrote cheques for contributions directly to insurance companies. Anyone worried that a policy may not be valid can check by contacting their insurance company direct. Page 40

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

Speak to Garry Weston about wheel-dealing and he'll turn the conversation to Wagon Wheels. "I like to win," says the Canadian billionaire, "but my sort of winning comes through the development of a new product. That is what gives the thrill: more than any takeover deal."

Fiona Walsh talks to one of the world's richest men in The Sunday Times tomorrow

# Seasonal investment offers long-term returns

A cruel streak is needed when choosing toys that children cannot play with, as Barbara Ellis discovered

THE season of spending on children is enough to turn a parent's mind towards gifts of more lasting value.

But John Baddeley, of Sotheby's collectors' department, says it takes a streak of cruelty to be a good investor in toys. Bears are not for hugging and model cars have to stay in pristine condition in their original boxes to hold their value.

Collectors are after unusual, short runs, such as the Mickey Mouse toys produced in the Thirties by manufacturers other than Disney. A rare Mickey Mouse can fetch up to £3,000, but only if it is in mint condition with the original box. Collectors are only just becoming interested in the Sixties.

Mr Baddeley says that the enormous increase in toy prices over the past 20 years has been in pre-1912 German tinplate, trains, boats and Wright brothers aeroplanes, made by Bing, Carrete or Marklin. Expensive when first issued, 20 years ago this type of toy was selling for about £10,000 but can now fetch anything up to £100,000.

Teddy bears have been one of the worst features of the toy market lately. In the past five years they have reached as much as £55,000, only subsequently to drop back. A bear bought for £10,000 18 months ago might be worth no more than £5,000 today. Without the back-up serious collectors need in the form of reference works or museum exhib-

its, people just went mad for quality teddies, says Mr Baddeley. Steiff, the top quality name in bears, is still in business, selling a modern version of its classic bear, with a gold button in one ear. However, Mr Baddeley would not recommend buying a new bear.

Battery-operated robots and television and film tie-ins, such as James Bond merchandise, are areas where a major collection can still be formed for less than £25,000. "In any other field, that is peanuts," says Mr Baddeley.

He is keen to encourage young collectors. Dinky toys, a favourite in Britain, can still be bought for a few pounds, although some models are worth hundreds. Some of the vehicles that were least popular when issued have become the most sought after.

Starting a child on the way to his or her own collection of family silver may seem an attractive idea, but the investment evidence is mixed. Gains at the top end of the market have sometimes been spectacular.

British Rail's pension fund turned £7,700 into £82,500 in the 11 years between 1976 and 1987 by buying and selling a pair of Charles II silver caskets. These were part of a collection of fine antique silver bought for less than £250,000 during the Seventies and sold for £1.3 million in 1987.

But lower down the scale, prices have risen much more slowly or have stayed constant.

Titus Kendall, of Spink & Son, the dealer, said that the price of



Continuing good prospects for claret: John Armit recommends laying down some Bordeaux as world demand for the wine grows

George III silver snuffboxes he would choose as a starter investment had been between £300 and £400 for several years. "This is an alternative investment. You have got to enjoy and like the things you buy. Your return should be the enjoyment and if you do not get that you should not bother. The best pieces for investment are always things people use," he says.

Adam Brent-Smith, of Corney & Barrow, the wine merchants, says he puts down a case of vintage port each year for a godchild, paying between £150 and £200 a case of late for a 1985 Dow. He suggests some rules for buying

port or claret (Bordeaux), the main investment wines, for children.

□ Only buy wines from the best vintages on expert advice.

□ Do not borrow to buy wine.

□ Do not speculate or rely on wine for a return on an investment.

□ Be patient — the minimum time for an investment wine is five years, with the best returns in the sixth to tenth years.

If there were to be a repeat of the worldwide slump of the early Seventies, when Bordeaux prices crashed, Mr Brent-Smith says investors should sit out the slump calmly as prices will bounce back eventually.

"The object of the exercise is to drink the stuff after all," he says. No capital gains tax is charged on wine, because the Inland Revenue classes it as a wasting asset.

Mr Brent-Smith chose Chateau Haut Brion (first growth), Chateau

Montrose and Chateau Petrus (second growth) as the best of 1989. Chateau Haut Brion was also among 1989 Bordeaux chosen by Justerini & Brooks, the wine merchants, for an "en primeur" offer earlier this year. This allows investors to buy the wine before it is bottled, deferring duty and value-added tax until it is delivered in this country.

Including shipping, but excluding duty and VAT, the Haut Brion was £480 per case, as was Chateau Cheval Blanc and Chateau Margaux. A spokeswoman for Justerini & Brooks says the firm is recommending the Margaux for drinking in 2012.

The investment record of wine is difficult to track, but last year John Armit Wines produced figures showing that between 1982 and 1989, Bordeaux of the 1981, 1982 and 1983 vintages showed compound annual growth in value ranging from 14 per cent to 20 per

cent. The calculations were based on the mid-year, average prices of five cases of the 20 wines the firm usually sells to investors. Mr Armit, after whom the company is named, envisages continuing good prospects for Bordeaux, since world demand is growing and the top 25 chateaux produce no more than about 430,000 cases a year.

At the conventional end of the investment market, unit trusts offer a simple way into share investment on behalf of children.

Units are usually bought in the name of an adult for the account of the child and transferred when the child is aged 18.

As unit trusts invest in a spread of shares they should be less risky than an investment in a single privatisation issue.

In the past three years, most unit trusts have performed worse than building society high interest accounts. But the record over the longer term is more encouraging.

# Old comics are no laughing matter for serious collectors

HENRY Gewanter's collection of almost 500 comics, built up in the past 16 years, is worth an astonishing £9,000.

"Comics are a good thing to hand on to your children, but not while they are children," says Mr Gewanter, who works in public relations.

In order to preserve their value, serious collectors store comics away from light in air-tight wrapping, or suspended in an inert gas. Reading is usually out of the question.

The most valuable item in Mr Gewanter's collection is a first edition *Captain Marvel*, bought for £180 in the Seventies and worth about £5,000 now.

"It is worth as much as it is because it is literally a perfect, mint copy. I have not read it because that would bend the spine and diminish the value. I sort of peeked in round the side once," he says. Although Mr Gewanter has

no record of what his collection cost, he claims that it has more than kept pace with inflation. As comics become more scarce, he expects them to outperform some more traditional investments.

Having specialised in the American comics of the Forties, and underground comics of the Sixties and Seventies, Mr Gewanter advises people buying for investment to buy the most expensive comic they can afford and concentrate on condition.

If money is no object, he says, collectors should look for comics such as *Action Number One* or the first issues of *Superman* or *Batman*. However, he gives warning that in perfect condition any one of these could be worth between £20,000 and £40,000.

In a more affordable range, he suggests the *X-Men* or an early *Conan the Barbarian*.

Clint Twist, who writes science fiction books for children,

collects mostly new issues. "I read them. Lately I have started putting them back in their plastic packs, but quite a lot of my collection is not particularly valuable," he says.

However, Mr Twist can point to some impressive gains in percentage terms, such as the 400 per cent he made in three years on the series of four *Batman* comics by Frank Miller, collectively known as *The Dark Knight*. Bought new for a total of £10, they are now worth £50.

Price information on comics is available in various guides published for collectors and sold through specialist shops or at conventions, such as the exhibition/convention held at the Edinburgh Festival this year.

Mr Twist also recommends the *British Comics Price Guide*, compiled by Dennis Gifford and published in 1985, although the only copy he can find to consult is in the British Museum.



Marvellous gain: Henry Gewanter with his first edition Captain Marvel comic worth £5,000

# Simple gift earns maximum interest with young savers

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THERE is one generous Christmas present that almost every parent can give their children without it costing them a penny. Next time they visit the bank or building society where their children have savings accounts they should register them for gross payment of interest.

The majority of children are non-taxpayers and will be able to earn 33 per cent more interest on their savings than basic rate taxpayers from April 6, as long as their parents act in the next few months. Otherwise, children could lose out on millions of pounds of interest.

The Halifax Building Society has written to the parents of 1.25 million children with savings accounts, explaining how children can benefit from the scrapping of composite rate tax.

The society urges parents of children with a total annual income of less than £3,005, where no more than £100 is interest earned on money given to the children by the parents, to complete and sign a registration form available from all banks, building societies and post offices.

Parents must sign for children under 16, confirming that they are eligible to receive interest with no

tax deducted. Provided a youngster qualifies for gross interest, it can be paid on any account, whether in the child's name or held in trust. Where accounts are taken out on behalf of a child with an adult's name first on the passbook, interest can be issued gross in most circumstances.

But while the gross rate applies to accounts where the name of a parent or guardian appears first on the passbook, it is not allowable if in the name of a grandparent, godparent or anyone else.

Children who reach age 16 on or before April 5 must complete the registration form personally. Once the declaration is signed, children will be able to receive interest on savings accounts without deduction of tax from April 6.

The Halifax is concerned that children should not miss out because their parents are unaware of the new system of taxing savings accounts or feel it is not worth registering a child's account because there is £100 or less in it.

On amounts of £100, interest with tax deducted works out at £5 with the Halifax, but £8 when paid gross. Nationwide Building Society would pay £9 on its Cashbuilder account on £100 with tax deducted and £12 when paid

gross. The latter is not planning to write to parents but has briefed staff in its branches to alert parents to the need to sign declarations for their children.

Abbey National's Instant Saver account pays £6.23 on £100 net of tax and £8.30 when paid gross. It is placing a leaflet in all branches from January 2, explaining who is eligible for interest to be paid gross.

If parents do not make the required declaration for their children before a bank or building society pays interest on the children's account, they will be allowed by some institutions to register retrospectively and have the tax deducted credited to the account. Failing that, a child will have to wait until April 6, 1992, when a parent or guardian will have to apply for a refund of tax paid on the savings account. The Inland Revenue is setting up 20 new offices to deal with applications for refunds.

The Revenue estimates that 15 million savers will be able to escape paying tax from April 6. Of these, 3.25 million are children. It will launch its first television campaign in the new year to highlight the need to apply for interest to be paid gross.

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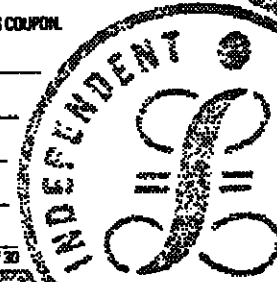
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## Green step

The green step is a new initiative by the government to encourage people to take steps to improve their environmental record.

## The after life

It's time to think about the after life. The World Bank has issued a report on the state of the world's economies.

## TV go-ahead

The BBC has given the go-ahead to a new television series about the world's most famous people.

## Double defeat

England's cricket team has suffered a double defeat in the World Cup, losing to the West Indies and India.

## INDEX

- Bank of England
- Black mark
- Churning fears
- Green step
- Independent Financial Advice
- Old comics
- Power profit
- Seasonal investment
- Simple gift
- TV go-ahead
- Underground comics
- Wagon Wheels